

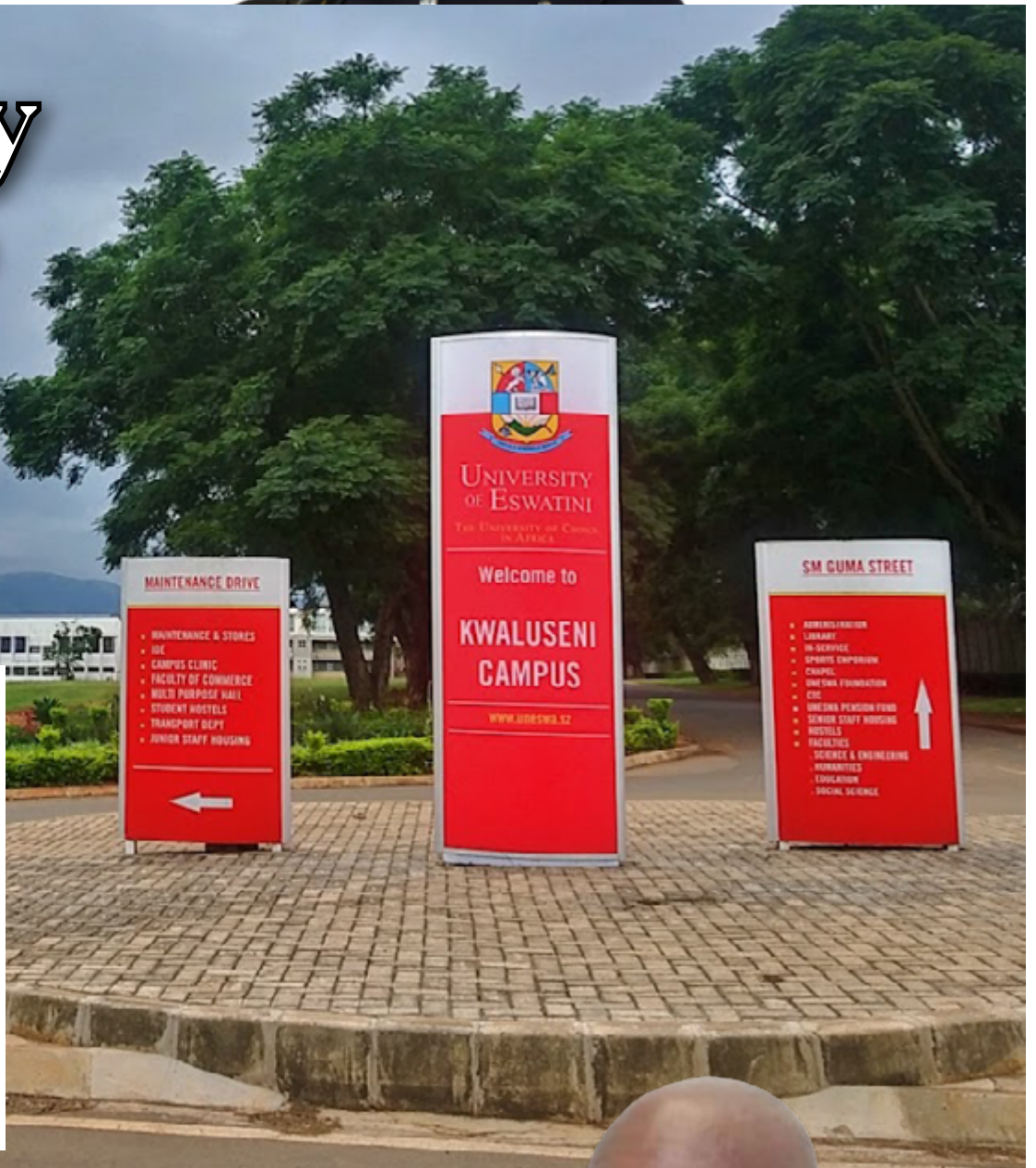


More salary delays for UNESWA staff

By Silindzelwe Nxumalo
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IT doesn't rain but pours for the University of Eswatini's (UNESWA) staff as they are faced with more salary delays even this January. The staff salaries were delayed in most months in the year 2023 and the last was in November. According to a memorandum issued by the university's Registrar Dr Salebona Simelane, directed to all staff in the different campuses dated January 20, he advised that the payment of salaries for the month of January 2024 at certain banks is going to be delayed and this shall be addressed on Monday.

■ SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 2



SwaziPharm donates medical supplies worth E1.8 million

Page 2



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By Silindzelwe Nxumalo
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IT doesn't rain but pours for the University of Eswatini's (UNESWA) staff as they are faced with more salary delays even this January.

The staff salaries were delayed in most months in the year 2023 and the last was in November.

According to a memorandum issued by the university's Registrar Dr Salebona Simelane, directed to all staff in the different campuses dated January 20, he advised that the payment of salaries for the month of January 2024 at certain banks is going to be delayed and this shall be addressed on Monday.

Through the memo, Simelane also stated that the delay was due to some technical challenges that were experienced on January 19, 2024.

"The inconvenience caused is regretted," said Simelane.

Moreover, in another memo by Simelane to the staff dated January 22, he said further to the release of their memorandum dated January 20, 2024, they would like to state that the payment of the outstanding staff salaries that they were hoping would be made by January 22, 2024, could not take place because of continual challenges faced by the university.

He explained that the latest position is that the Chairman of Council and Management escalated this matter to the highest authorities in Government this afternoon, and a promise was made to the effect that some funds would be released and the staff salaries would now possibly be paid by the end of the day on January 23, 2024.

"The inconvenience caused is regretted," said the registrar again.

An anonymous employee of the university

More salary delays for UNESWA staff



▲ UNESWA Registrar Dr Salebona Simelane.

said this inconvenience by the employer has been going on for too long and that it has led to them having a lot of debts.

She stated that because of such delays, they need to always take debts to survive until they are paid.

"It's even worse now that it is January and

our children are meant to be going back to school on Tuesday, we haven't been able to prepare for them and pay their school fees," said the employee.

The staff member also stated that the inconsistent communication regarding when the salaries would eventually be paid

seems immoral that other staff members are paid, and others are not.

"Why would I not be paid because I'm at a certain bank and not the other, this shows immoral and unprofessionalism. Most employed people were paid even before their normal pay dates, but employers would pay a bit early to accommodate last-minute back-to-school responsibilities," she said.

She added that this has become a norm that salaries come late however, all the time the communication to this effect is always late, and in most cases on the afternoon of the date of expected payment.

"It is frustrating that this happens even when most academic and non-academic staff members subsidize the operations of the university by buying working tools some as basic as whiteboard markers and even computers and other materials," she said.

She said the staff members even pay to attend conferences and pay for consumables for their research, yet the university is failing to at least pay salaries on time or timely communicate their failure to do so.

She further added that it is also notable that for some time the management of the University is failing to deal with stabilizing the operations of the university.

"It is not students complaining about classrooms and other amenities, it is staff complaining about salaries and closure of medical aid for the rest of December 2023, it is noncommittal of loans to the banks or pension. The frustrations of staff members are beyond salaries," she said.

SwaziPharm donates medical supplies worth E1.8m

By Nokunceda Magagula
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IN a bid to help curb the drug crisis faced by Eswatini, SwaziPharm has donated medical supplies and pharmaceuticals worth E1.8 million to the Ministry of Health.

The donation took place at SwaziPharm premises in Matsapha on Monday, the medical supplies were handed over by Director of SwaziPharm Kareem Ashraff and received by Ministry of Health Principal Secretary Khanya Mabuza on behalf of the Minister of Health Mduduzi Matsebula.

Speaking on behalf of the Ministry, Mabuza poured his sincere gratitude to the SwaziPharm Director, stating that when he was first informed by Ashraff that he wanted to make this kind of donation, he was glad because he knew that the need for medication in Eswatini's hospital is extremely high.

"When the Director informed me that he wants to make this kind of donation, I took it from the heart and I was glad because I knew that the need for medical supplies in our hospitals is very high," the principal secretary said.

Mabuza said he is also glad that the SwaziPharm officers together with the officers from the Ministry of Health were able to work to expedite the manner to recommend the items to be donated. Mabuza said he is very confident that the items donated will assist those who need



▲ The medical supplies and pharmaceuticals donated by SwaziPharm to the Ministry of Health.

them the most, which is their patients who seek care in the country's health facilities.

Acknowledging the challenges brought by the shortage of drugs in hospitals, Mabuza said this is a difficult time for the Ministry, country, and also patients.

"During this time of crisis, the Ministry is glad to witness this venture as it complements the efforts to reorganize the government and improve the situation of drug shortage that has engulfed this beautiful Kingdom in a severe manner over the past few years," Mabuza asserted.



▲ Ministry of Health Principal Secretary Khanya Mabuza.

The Principal Secretary asked emaSwati to bear with them as they are working day and night to better the situation. "It is a problem that has been going on over years, it is not something we can solve overnight," Mabuza said.

He emphasized that the Ministry has stepped up efforts to address the issue through implementing strategies, which include developing short-term and long-term strategies. "I am confident that with this team we are all working collaboratively with other Ministries to end this challenge,"

Mabuza said.

The Ministry's short-term strategy includes looking closely at suppliers, improving the warehouse, and improving management systems to enhance the security of the medication. Mabuza said the long-term strategy includes making sure that such a crisis never happens again. "We are looking at the governance of the medical central stores closely, including procurement system to ensure efficiency and attain a supply chain that will last," Mabuza said.

SwaziPharm to destroy medical supplies worth E20 million

The director of SwaziPharm Kareem Ashraff said due to the expiry of drugs stored in their warehouse because the company is not receiving orders, he can confirm that today they will destroy medical supplies worth E20 million.

Ashraff said the medical supply being destroyed is mostly the medication that is currently in demand in government hospitals.

"It is very disheartening that people are dying in hospitals while we have medication lying around," the director said.

He mentioned that the health crisis seems like a self-made crisis because the government is giving orders to suppliers who do not have stock and leaving suppliers who have stock at hand. Ashraff said that in their stock they still have medical suppliers worth E50 million waiting for the government to make its order through the tender that still exists.

Stories by Ncaba Ntshakala

AS the new school year kicks off in Manzini, the streets buzzed not only with excited students but also with a renewed focus on safety.

The Municipal Council, in collaboration with various stakeholders, hosted a successful ‘Back to School Crime Prevention Roadshow’ on Louw Street, equipping children and their families with valuable knowledge and resources to navigate the busy city safely.

The Roadshow, held on Friday offered interactive workshops, informative talks, and engaging activities delivered by the Royal Eswatini Police Service (REPS), the Swaziland Building Society, Standard Bank Eswatini, and other community organisations. Pupils learned about staying alert in crowded areas, identifying potentially risky situations, and reporting suspicious activity. Parents received guidance on securing their homes and monitoring their children’s online activity.

“Prioritising the safety of our citizens is paramount,” said an officer of Manzini Police Station, highlighting the Nation and the Council’s proactive approach. Recognising the potential vulnerability of students during the back to school rush, they have deployed additional rangers throughout the city centre, focusing on high-risk areas. This increased presence aims to deter criminal activity and provide

Manzini Municipal Council, REPS hold successful Back to School Crime Prevention Roadshow

a reassuring visual for parents and students alike.

The roadshow’s success resonated with Happy Simelane, a vendor in Manzini and a mother. “This event was informative and engaging for both my children and me. Learning practical tips from trusted sources makes me feel more confident as I send them back to school,” she added.

“ This event was informative and engaging for both my children and me. Learning practical tips from trusted sources makes me feel more confident as I send them back to school ”

”



▲ Apostle Jethro Malindzisa from High Praise Assemblies in Nhlanguano will also be at the annual Police Prayer Day.

... REPS invites emaSwati to annual Police Prayer Day

THE Royal Eswatini Police Services (REPS) extends a warm invitation to the Christian fraternity to join them for their Annual Police Prayer Day, held under the powerful theme ‘You Are Your Brother’s Keeper.’

This special event, taking place on January 23rd at 6:00pm at the Matsapha Police Academy, serves as a moving opportunity for Emaswati and Christians alike to demonstrate their support and appreciation for the dedicated men and women who serve in law enforcement.

The theme, ‘You Are Your Brother’s Keeper,’ aptly reflects the crucial role that police officers play in safeguarding our communities. It resonates with the Christian principle of love and service, reminding us that we are all responsible for one another’s well-being.

The Police Prayer Day according to REPS is not just about expressing gratitude; it’s also a chance to pray for strength, wisdom, and guidance for the officers as they face

the daily challenges of protecting the citizenry.

The police force warmly welcomes all Christians, regardless of denomination, to join them in this meaningful event. “I am happy with this initiative which REPS is doing. I think it gives us time to come together in solidarity, recognising the sacrifices made by our police officers and their families.

It’s also an opportunity to offer blessings and encouragement as they navigate the complexities of their duties,” said Apostle Henry Shongwe who applauded the effort done by REPS.

The prayer hosted by National Police Commissioner Lydia Dlamini will have esteemed clergymen who includes former Minister of Economic Planning and Development Reverend Absalom Muntu Dlamini who is the leader of International Tabernacle, VOC Director Apostle Zachariah Mthethwa, Apostle Jethro Malindzisa from High Praise Assemblies to name a few.



▲ Acting National Commissioner of Police Lydia Sijabulisiwe Dlamini.



▲ Former Minister of Economic Planning and Development Reverend Absalom Muntu Dlamini from International Tabernacle will be one of the clergymen at the annual Police Prayer Day.

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Stories by Nokunceda Magagula
nokuncedam@rubiconmedia.group

HHUKWINI Inkhundla member of parliament Alec Lushaba on Monday presented rice weighing 300kg to nine schools within the constituency courtesy of the Republic of China in Taiwan.

Present to receive their rice donation were the school principals who were accompanied by their school chairpersons.

Making the presentation was the Republic of China Minister in the Embassy Ching-lin Tsuei who said it is a great pleasure to visit Hhukwini on this special occasion.

Tsuei shared achievements of education and cooperation between the two countries. Stating that they deeply understand the importance of financial support to international students. Therefore, the Taiwan government and many universities in Taiwan provide various scholarships to help international students study in Taiwan.

The ambassador said they will soon announce the Taiwan Scholarship and they will welcome Eswatini students to apply for the Taiwan Scholarship and pursue their degrees. He mentioned that currently there are more than 200 Swazi students studying in Taiwan.

He said the Taiwan and Eswatini Governments dedicate themselves to encouraging and empowering young people because they fully understand that the youth is the future of a great nation.

“The Taiwan Government also sponsored 100 students from Eswatini College of Technology in 2019 to pursue their further studies. And it is wonderful to see that many of these students are contributing to society, and helping prepare the next generation of professionals,” the Ambassador said.

Tsuei said technical qualifications are essential for the growing economy of Eswatini. Taiwan Government initiates the “Technical and Vocational Education and Training Project” focusing on equipping young people with skills to make a living.

This Project has had a tremendous impact as it saw the Electrical Engineering, ICT, Hospitality, and Tourism labs and workshops of the College being refurbished with the relevant equipment.

For Electrical, the Project set up labs for Programmable Logic Controllers, Industrial

Hhukwini Inkhundla MP presents rice to nine schools



▲Hhukwini MP Alec Lushaba with some of the teachers from nine schools under his constituency during the donation of rice by the Republic of China in Taiwan.

Automation Control, and Electronics; whereas for ICT, a computer lab with data and networking training equipment was set up.

He said the Taiwan government was also happy to see, under this project, the demo kitchens being furnished with relevant equipment to boost the Hospitality and Tourism department of this college.

“Education is the most powerful tool which you can use to improve people’s lives. We have faith that, moving forward together, all emaSwati can enjoy productive lives. We can go on to even greater achievements, and make even more contributions to the community, to the country,” Tsuei said.

Hhukwini MP Alec Lushaba stressed that besides the rice donation to the schools, the new Inkhundla Council which came into office late last year wanted to meet the school’s principals, understand their

challenges as the Council views schools as a critical stakeholder in the general development of the country and wellbeing of its citizens.

He urged the schools to partner with not just the government but with parents in ensuring that all children of school-going age are in class. He encouraged the principals and chairpersons to ensure that since schools open today they must attend to every child, especially the orphaned and vulnerable.

He said the Inkhundla needs the statistics of children who should otherwise be in class but are limited by resources. Lushaba said both primary school principals and high schools should have this information, which will assist the office of the DPM to make appropriate interventions.

The schools highlighted a number of challenges, which they expect the MP to bring to government attention. High among

those is that schools are getting dilapidated as there are no sufficient resources to run them. This affects both high and primary schools. They have possible interventions but all require money.

Appreciating the food support was Mdzimba High School principal Elvis Mtsetfwa, who said it came at the right time when schools were just opening.

Speaking on behalf of the Ministry of Education was senior inspector nutrition Thobile Gamedze. Thanked the Republic of China on Taiwan for being a gracious partner for the Kingdom of Eswatini.

She said this donation through the Inkhundla would go a long way to improve the school feeding program offered by the ministry.

She said Taiwan is a good friend of the Kingdom assisting in many educational and other development projects be it in the health, agriculture, and economic sector.

Woman burns sister-in-law’s child with hot water

A WOMAN from Corporation has been arrested and convicted after she burnt a two-year old infant who is her sister-in-law’s child.

Nonhlanhla Mabuza appeared at Mbabane Magistrate’s Court before Magistrate Sifiso Vilakati where she was charged with contravening Section 77(1) of the Sexual Offenses and Domestic Violence Act of 2018 after she burnt the 2-year-old with hot water and the accused pleaded guilty to the charge.

During her trial on Monday, the mother of the two-year-old took the witness stand and testified how her child was burnt with boiling water. Khanyisile Dlamini told the court that she and the accused are sisters-in-law, they reside at the same home in Corporation. She said on October 13, 2023, while she was at home, she and the accused had an argument.

Dlamini said the argument was sparked by that Mabuza’s older son had thrown garbage



in Dlamini’s yard.

Acting in anger, Dlamini took the garbage and placed it in Mabuza’s yard. She went inside the house to check on the two-year-

old infant who was crying. She took the baby and went out of the house again.

As she went outside, Mabuza approached her. She was carrying a kettle with boiling

water. The accused threw the boiling water on Dlamini and her child.

As a result, Dlamini said the two-year-old was burnt on the chest and on her back. She added that the two-year-old has permanent scars on her chest.

In cross-examination, the accused told the court that Dlamini had previously burnt her with boiling water, so she had thought that since they were having an argument Dlamini might burn her again, which made her strike first.

Mabuza was found guilty as her plea by Magistrate Vilakati. In her mitigation statement, Mabuza became emotional as she apologized. She told the court: “Your worship, I promise that I will never commit a crime again. I have children at home that I need to take care of,” she said. Mabuza was sentenced to five years imprisonment or a fine of E5000. The court, however, said E3000 was suspended for three years.

Eswatini Mobile Siyabangena Roadshow 2024 takes Manzini by storm!

By EDN Reporter

THIS past weekend, the Manzini bus rank witnessed the greatness of the first Eswatini Mobile Siyabangena roadshow of 2024, and it was nothing short of spectacular.

Siyabangena roadshow came back with a bang, delivering a roadshow that is bigger, better, and more thrilling than ever before.

Emaswati, brimming with interest, flocked to the busrank, demonstrating their unwavering support for Eswatini Mobile. The air was charged with high energy as the crowd started to fill up the rank on Saturday morning, showcasing their appreciation for the network that has become an integral part of their daily lives.

This year's roadshow featured several new games, elevating the excitement to extraordinary levels. Among them was the revamped and ever-popular "Imali Noma Libhokisi" (Money or Box) game, where two fortunate winners walked away with E500 SPAR vouchers by making the daring choice of one box out of three, each filled with suspense.

Adding to the thrill was the introduction of the "Throw a Ball" game, where players skilfully aimed to land a ball into differently sized holes. Lucky customers snatched the opportunity to win No Frills packages ranging from E25 to E495, making every throw count.

Busiswa Gwebu found a silver lining in a stroke of luck as the grand prize winner of a brand new Samsung smartphone. During the December holidays, Busiswa's house was broken into, resulting in the unfortunate loss of his phone. He tried his luck and purchased airtime and entered a raffle draw at the roadshow, hoping for a change in his luck.

Victorious

That change arrived as he emerged victorious, winning a Samsung smartphone. This unexpected win not only replaced the device stolen from him but also added a spark of joy to Busiswa's life, making it a truly remarkable day and he appreciates Eswatini Mobile.

Entertainment took centre stage as groups like Praise Gee and Milano serenaded the crowd with their exciting performances. These talented groups were selected after submitting their videos via the Eswatini Mobile Facebook page, highlighting the roadshow's commitment to involving the community in the festivities.

But that's not all, the youth, handpicked from the excited crowd, showcased their dance moves, turning the event into a showcase of local talent. A talented young dancer Khulekani Magongo from Luve impressed even the management of Eswatini Mobile proving that this spontaneous selection not only added an extra layer of excitement but also provided a platform for the youth to be noticed and appreciated.

Eswatini Mobile has once again proven its commitment to not just connecting people but creating moments of joy and connection. Stay tuned for more Siyabangena roadshows, where Eswatini Mobile promises to continue to exceed expectations, bringing their services closer to the people, brand visibility, fun, and unforgettable moments.

... A spectacular weekend of fun, games, and prizes galore



▲ The Red Team all smiles and excited at the Manzini Bus Rank.



▲ This young man impressed Eswatini Mobile management with his dancing skills.



▲ The youth showcasing trending dance moves.



▲ The new and revamped Imali noma Libhokisi game.



▲ The new Throw a Ball game was amongst the crowd's favourite.



▲ The Eswatini Mobile team in a jovial mood.



▲ Customers all eager to be part of the games.



▲ The Imali noma Libhokis shopping voucher winner.

2 men charged with armed robbery of items worth E100 000

Stories by Nokunceda Magagula
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THE police have arrested and charged two men for an armed robbery which took place at Mahwalala, resulting in four people being robbed of money and a car.

The two men who can be identified as Samkeliso Richards (26) and Sibusiso Khumalo (40) made their first appearance at the Mbabane Magistrate's Court before Magistrate Xolile Nxumalo. Both accused have been charged with four counts of robbery which all took place on January 17, 2024.

Count one states that the accused are alleged to have used a firearm to forcefully take a car that belonged to Mahabub Husan valued at E70 000 and money in cash amounting to E22 320.

"On January 17, 2024 in Mahwalala the accused, each acting in furtherance of common purpose with intent to induce submission to the victim used a bush knife and a firearm and, therefore, robbed him of a blue VW Polo motor vehicle valued at E70 000 and money in cash amounting to E22 320," part of the charge sheet reads.

Count two states that on the same day of January 2024 at Mahwalala, in the Hhohho region, both accused acted together in common purpose and threatened Alauddin Mohammed with a firearm and bush knife.



They then robbed him of money amounting to E4 730. "Both accused acted jointly in furtherance of common purpose and with intent to induce submission to the victim to taking his property did wrongfully and unlawfully threaten him with a firearm and bush knife telling him that unless he consented to the items being taken from him he will be shot," part of the charge sheet reads.

Firearm

The third count states that on the same day in Mahwalala, both accused acted jointly and threatened Sihlelelwe Dlamini with a firearm and further robbed her a Samsung A12 cellphone valued at E2 500. "Both accused used a firearm and bush knife to rob the

Sibane Sami Hotel employee arrested for stealing glasses

A waiter at Sibane Sami Hotel was arrested and charged with theft of 5 drinking glasses amounting to E1 480.

Lungelo Ndzabukelwako (24) from Mvutjini made his appearance at the Mbabane Magistrate's Court before Magistrate Xolile Nxumalo on Monday. The accused is alleged to have stolen the five glasses while employed at the hotel.

"On January 18, 2024, at Zulwini in the Hhohho district, the accused unlawfully and intentionally stole five different sizes of glasses valued at E1 480," the charge sheet reads. In Court the accused pleaded guilty to the charge of theft.

He also presented to the Crown that he had no previous convictions. He was, therefore, found guilty as per his plea. In his mitigation statement, the accused told the Court that his house had suffered damage because of the hailstorm so he wanted to sell the glasses so that he could buy roofing material to repair the damage.

He asked the Court to be lenient when handing down his sentence.

Magistrate Nxumalo sentenced the accused to eight months imprisonment or

to pay E1 000 fine.

In the same Court, Steven Pindani from Malawi was sentenced to 3 months imprisonment after he was found in the country without having a valid permit.

Offense

The accused charge sheet read that he is charged with contravening Section 14 (2) (c) of the Immigration Act, "On January 21, 2024, near Mbabane Industrial site at Rose Tyres in the Hhohho region the accused not being a holder of a valid permit allowing him to be in the country, was found in the country and thus committed the said offense."

Pindani pleaded guilty to the charge. In his mitigation statement, he said he had lost his passport during the unrest in 2021, which has caused his over stay in Eswatini. Magistrate Nxumalo asked the accused why he had not made the means to get another passport since it's been 3 years since he lost his passport. The accused did not have a clear answer to that question.

He was, therefore, sentenced to 3 months imprisonment or to pay a fine of E500.

victim of her cellphone and thus committed the said offense," part of the charge sheet reads.

Count four mentions that on the same day in the same area, both accused acted together and robbed Samkelisiwe Simelane of money amounting to E5 500. Again the charge sheet highlights that the accused used a gun and the bush knife to make the victim submit to their demands.

During the court proceeding the crown applied that both accused are remanded into custody pending committal to the High Court on February 2, 2024. Moreover, the crown applied that the car which is alleged to be stolen by the accused shall be detained by the state. The accused shall remain in custody until February 4, 2024 pending committal to the High Court and they were also advised to move their bail application at the High Court.



MAKE SURE THEY START THEIR BEST SCHOOL DAY, IN THE BEST WAY POSSIBLE

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- 1kg Embiveni French Polony,
- 1kg Embiveni Ham,
- 1kg SMI Chicken Vienna,
- 200g Cheddar Cheese Yellow 12 slices,
- 1kg Back Bacon.

E320⁰⁰

THE RULING HAMPER



- 500g Quality Russian,
- 1kg Embiveni French Polony,
- 2kg Embiveni Ham,
- 2kg SMI Chicken Vienna,
- 400g Cheddar Cheese white 24 slices,
- 1kg Back Bacon,
- 1kg SMI Farmstyle Wors.

E569⁹⁹

THE PENNING HAMPER



- 500g Econo Russians,
- 5 x 100g Embiveni French Polony,
- 500g SMI Chicken Vienna,
- 100g Cheddar Cheese Yellow 6 slices,
- 500g Chakalaka Wors,
- 1kg Choice Burger.

E128⁹⁹

BUSINESS NEWS

BUSINESS BRIEFS

NMC, YERF offer loans up to E200 000 for youth farmers

The National Maize Corporation (NMC) and Youth Entrepreneurship Revolving Fund (YERF) have availed a business opportunity for local youth farmers in cultivating maize and beans. The NMC and YERF has stated that the youth farmers will have the opportunity to apply for business loans up to E200 000. According to the statement, all loans under this program shall be towards assisting youth farmers with working capital.

Oil creeps higher as geopolitics outweigh demand concerns

LONDON — Oil prices edged higher on Monday as traders weighed the impact of wars in the Middle East and Ukraine on oil supply against economic headwinds pressuring global oil demand. Brent crude rose 22 cents to \$78.78 a barrel by 1141 GMT. The front-month U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude futures contract for February delivery was up 31 cents at \$73.72 a barrel in tepid trade, with the contract set to expire on Monday. The more active March WTI contract was up 26 cents at \$73.51.

Rand on backfoot ahead of rate decision

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa's rand edged lower against the dollar early on Monday, as traders gauge an eventful week that will host the release of inflation data and the central bank's first rate decision of the year. At 0620 GMT, the rand traded at 19.0600 against the dollar, about 0.1 per cent weaker than its previous close. The dollar was down about 0.09 per cent against a basket of global currencies.

ESE extends deadline for compulsory dematerialization of shares

Stories by Silindzelwe Nxumalo
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ESWATINI Stock Exchange (ESE) has extended the deadline for compulsory dematerialization of shares, effective August 1, 2022 till 29 February 2024.

Through a statement, the ESE informed the public that the Ministry of Finance has granted the deadline for compulsory dematerialization of shares, effective 1 August 2022 till 29 February 2024.

ESE said with reference made to Legal Notice No. 269 of 2022 issued under section 16 of the Securities Act, 2010 by the Minister for Finance which enjoins shareholders and bondholders to open Central Securities Depository (CSD) accounts, through their respective Stockbrokers, Transfer Secretaries, or Custodian Banks, in the CSD of the Central Bank of Eswatini (CBE) and dematerialize their holdings through the process of depositing shares in the CSD System.

They advised the public to open CSD accounts and submit their share and bond certificates to their Transfer Secretaries if they just want to dematerialize but not sell, for the certificates to be converted into electronic shares.

According to Google, a central securities depository (CSD) is a specialized financial organization holding securities like shares, either in certificated or uncertificated (dematerialized) form, allowing ownership to be easily transferred through a book entry rather than by a transfer of physical certificates.

"A CSD supports market development through the provision of a central service for clearing and settlement, thereby supporting



▲ The PSPF's Ingcamu Building that houses the Eswatini Stock Exchange.

trading, capital formation, and (indirectly) liquidity in the market," reported Google.

It was explained that the CSDs act as a kind of notary function in the issuance of securities and ensure the correct registration of the issued securities, and as a result, the CSD is responsible for contributing to the integrity of the issue over the securities' entire life cycle.

According to the ESE's website, the ESE is regulated by the Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA) and is governed by two (2) pieces of legislation, the Companies Act and the Securities Act.

"For regulating the affairs of the members (stockbrokers), the ESE utilizes the ESE Trading Rules and Rule Book which provide, as the main objective thereof, "to operate a Stock Exchange in Eswatini with due regard to the

public interest to maintain fair and efficient dealing in securities for the protection of investors and regulate the affairs of members," read the website.

The website added that the Exchange has a set of Listings Requirements that provide the pre-listing requirements and continuing obligations to be observed by the issuers of listed securities.

"The ESE has different Listings Requirements governing the different types of securities e.g. Debt (including green, social, and sustainable bonds), Equities and Exchange Traded Products (ETFs, ETNs, etc.)," read the website.

The website stated that the emphasis is to make sure that issuers disclose adequate information to investors and the public to facilitate informed investment decision-making.

'Butternut importation still allowed' — NAMBoard

THE National Agricultural Marketing Board (NAMBoard) has extended the importation of Butternut.

This is after the NAMBoard Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Bhekizwe Maziya said the importation ban on the butternut will be allowed from December 28, 2023, till January 15, 2023.

Maziya stated that the situation they had encountered was still the same as they were still experiencing undersupply.

The CEO said this was due to the recent rains which affected the production of the butternut and other products to a greater extent.

"We are coming from December where the consumption of vegetables was high which then creates the shortage of the vegetables," he said.

Maziya had previously stated that the lifting of the importation ban on butternut was due to the current weather conditions being experienced by the country.

He explained that when a ban is announced it is always because they have made an assessment and noted that the local farmers had volumes of those produce on the ground to sustain the market.

He stated that for the butternut, they had not anticipated the change in the weather conditions experienced in early December which hurt the



volumes expected to be harvested.

The CEO also stated that the introduction of the restriction on the Butternut and Green Pepper had been because through their assessment they noted that there were more of these products locally, so they see no need to import them.

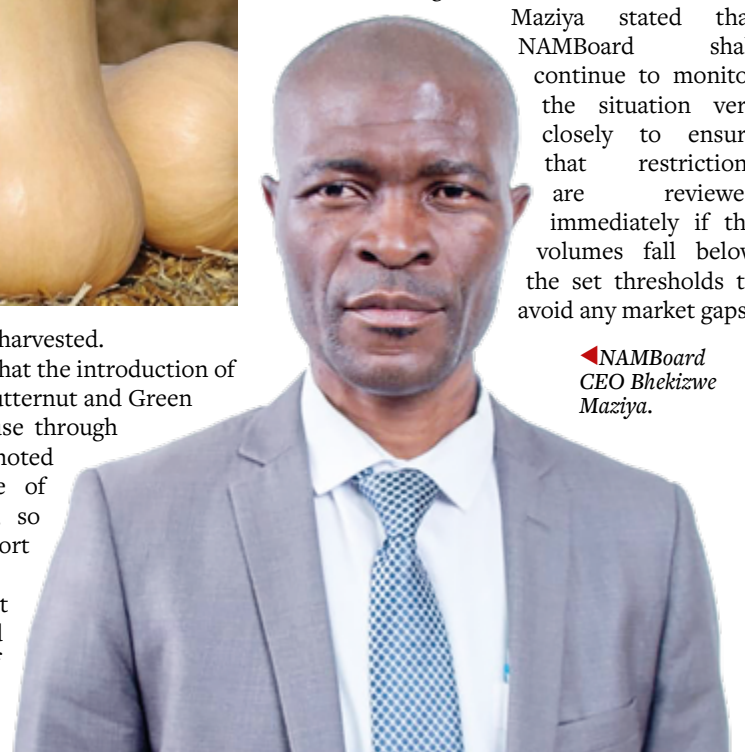
Maziya shared that if they had continued allowing importers of vegetables to continue

importing these vegetables, they would not have helped the local farmers in any way.

"Importing these vegetables would have brought saturation in the market of this vegetable," he said.

Maziya stated that NAMBoard shall continue to monitor the situation very closely to ensure that restrictions are reviewed immediately if the volumes fall below the set thresholds to avoid any market gaps.

▲ NAMBoard CEO Bhekizwe Maziya.



EswatiniBank		
FX RATES		
Notes/Cash	Buy	Sell
U.S. Dollar	18.7627	19.2280
G.B. Pound	23.7708	24.4548
EURO	20.4205	21.0273
Bank Rate	(July 2023)	7.50%
Prime Rate	(July 2023)	11%
Inflation	(July 2023)	4.5%
Petrol	E20.50/Litre	
Diesel	E21.80 /Litre	
Paraffin	E16.75/Litre	

NMC, YERF offer loans up to E200 000 for Youth Farmers

By Silindzelwe Nxumalo
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THE National Maize Corporation (NMC) and Youth Entrepreneurship Revolving Fund (YERF) have availed a business opportunity for local youth farmers in cultivating maize and beans.

The NMC and YERF has stated that the youth farmers will have the opportunity to apply for business loans up to E200 000.

According to the statement, all loans under this program shall be towards assisting youth farmers with working capital.

“This shall include all or part of the production costs as guided by gross margins,” read the statement.

The statement explained that under this programme the minimum loan size shall be E10 000, and the maximum loan size shall be categorized as individuals or sole traders (E70,000), registered companies (E150,000), and registered cooperatives (E200,000).

“The loan applicants must be liSwati between the ages of 18 - 35 years and must have a good credit history,” read part of the notice.

The notice also stated that the loan application form is to be accessed from YERF Offices, Inkhundla, YERF website, and NMC outlets and that submission of applications for summer crops is to be done



in January 2024.

According to their website, NMC was established in 1985 in accordance with the Companies Act of 1912, and the Corporation is currently involved in the commodity trading of white maize, premium rice, and sugar beans.

The website stated that the control of the corporation is vested in a Board of Directors appointed and removed by the Minister for Agriculture upon serving terms of three years at the helm of the corporation.

Meanwhile, the YERF website stated that they are a Category A Parastatal that was established by the Government of the

Kingdom of Swaziland in 2009 in response to the vision of His Majesty King Mswati III.

The company was established through legal notice No.179 of 2009. It is further regulated under the Public Enterprises (Control and Monitoring) Act of 1989.

The Parastatal is under the Ministry of Sports Culture and Youth Affairs. The main purpose of the Fund is to promote youth employment and alleviate poverty among young people between the ages of 18 to 35 years old.

The website said the mandate of the YERF is to assist Swazi youth to develop themselves economically.

“The Youth Enterprise Fund, therefore, seeks to empower the youth to engage in economic and commercial enterprises, empowering the youth to be self-sustainable, facilitating the provision of skills development for loan recipients, and providing capacity development and mentorship to youth-owned enterprises,” read part of the website.

It was added that the fund seeks to provide seed capital to the youth without the need for collateral, financing the growth of existing youth enterprises, and improving linkages for youth enterprises with relevant stakeholders.

By Vidya Ranganathan and Alun John

Dollar takes breather, BOJ and ECB meets top of mind

SINGAPORE/LONDON — Global currencies steadied on Monday as looming central bank decisions in Japan and Europe and vacillating market expectations for U.S. Federal Reserve rate cuts forced a pause in the dollar's data-spurred rally this year.

Japan's yen was one of the bigger movers, heading away from Friday's 148.80 per dollar, its weakest in a month, to as firm as 147.74, as the Bank of Japan started its two-day policy meeting.

Wagers for an exit from negative rates at this meeting have been wound down following the New Year's Day earthquake on Japan's west coast, alongside dovish BOJ commentary.

The currency, which is sensitive to the difference in interest rates between the U.S and Japan has been the worst hit against the dollar this year, tumbling about 5 per cent in a swift reversal of December's bounce to five-month peaks near 140.

“The policy convergence story drove down dollar-yen towards the end of last year, and after New Year we've seen some reversal of that because the market's expectations for Fed rate cuts have been pushed back a little bit and expectations for a BOJ rate hike have also been pushed back,” said BofA chief Japan FX/rates strategist Shusuke Yamada.

“We have BOJ tomorrow, and I think the market wants to see the outcome before



▲U.S. Dollar banknotes are seen in this illustration.

doing anything (further),” he said adding he did not expect “anything major from the BOJ tomorrow”.

Traders said one factor driving the yen moves was the expiry of a large amount of currency options this week and the hedging around those contracts.

LSEG data showed that while most options expiring between Monday and Thursday with strike prices between 147.15 and 148.10 dollar-yen levels were small, the cumulative

amount was around \$2.6 billion.

The euro was down 0.1 per cent at \$1.0888 and the pound was up a fraction at \$1.27095. That left the dollar's trade-weighted index at 103.24, flat on the day.

The dollar has gained the most among developed market currencies in January, and the dollar index has risen about 1.8 per cent from the start of this year, though its rally has been jerky as investors try to make up their minds about when the Federal Reserve

will start cutting rates.

Data late last week showing U.S. economic activity remains resilient despite interest rates at their highest level in decades caused markets to scale back expectations of rate cuts beginning as soon as in March.

Interest rate futures show traders are betting rate cuts will start in May, not March as they did until last week. Longer Treasury yields have risen steadily, with 10-year yields up 30 basis points this month.

There is, however, a wide gap of about 100 basis points between market expectations and the Fed's own dot plot of where rates will be by year end.

ECB up next after BOJ

This week also has much for markets to focus on, with the European Central Bank and Canada and Turkey's policy meetings on Thursday, a busy earnings season and turmoil in the Red Sea upsetting global trade and supply chains.

Ahead of the ECB policy meeting, the debate has shifted somewhat as policymakers accept that the next move is a rate cut, but later and less than what markets expect.

Market analysts think the ECB's inflation and growth outlook is wrong however, and market pricing currently indicates expectations of five 25 basis points cuts this year.

“The ECB lacks real hawkish credibility at this stage given the data, and if anything risks remain they shift dovishly – so remain underweight the Euro,” said analysts at NatWest in a note. (Reuters)

Oil creeps higher as geopolitics outweigh demand concerns

By Natalie Grover

LONDON — Oil prices edged higher on Monday as traders weighed the impact of wars in the Middle East and Ukraine on oil supply against economic headwinds pressuring global oil demand.

Brent crude rose 22 cents to \$78.78 a barrel by 1141 GMT. The front-month U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude futures contract for February delivery was up 31 cents at \$73.72 a barrel in tepid trade, with the contract set to expire on Monday. The more active March WTI contract was up 26 cents at \$73.51. “This morning’s subdued reopen speaks volumes about current sentiment in the crude oil market despite ongoing geopolitical tensions in Europe and the Middle East,”

said IG analyst Tony Sycamore. There are no signs of respite in Israel’s offensive against Gaza while attacks by Iran-aligned Houthis on commercial vessels in the Red Sea have continued despite retaliatory measures from the United States. The situation has served to tighten European and African crude markets and on Friday pushed the front-month Brent contract’s premium to the six-month contract to its widest since November. This so-called backwardation indicates a perception of tighter supply for prompt delivery. Meanwhile, Russian energy company Novatek has been forced to suspend some operations at its Baltic Sea fuel export terminal because of a fire, it said on Monday. The issue, which is expected to disrupt naphtha flows to Asia, could be resolved within weeks, analysts told Reuters. IG’s Sycamore suggested that oil



▲The chimneys of the Total Grandpuits oil refinery are seen just after sunset, southeast of Paris, France.

fundamentals will remain a headwind for prices. Oil production is higher while the growth outlook in China and Europe is mixed at best and GDP data this week is expected to show the velocity of the U.S. economy has slowed considerably, he said. “Investors want to be bullish, but tepid data and a cautious narrative from policymakers keep them on the backfoot,” said Tamas Varga of oil broker PVM. The latest demand growth forecasts by

the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the International Energy Agency and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries for 2024 are in a wide range between 1.24 million and 2.25 million barrels per day, though all three organisations expect demand growth to slow in 2025. Separately, production at Libya’s Sharara oilfield resumed on Sunday, state oil company NOC said, after protesters ended a sit-in that had halted output since early January. (Reuters)

South African rand on backfoot ahead of rate decision, data



▲South African Rand coins are seen in this illustration picture.

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa’s rand edged lower against the dollar early on Monday, as traders gauge an eventful week that will host the release of inflation data and the central bank’s first rate decision of the year. At 0620 GMT, the rand traded at 19.0600 against the dollar, about 0.1 per cent weaker than its previous close. The dollar was down about 0.09 per cent against a basket of global currencies. The rand fell sharply last week and has yet to claw back lost ground, as the greenback firmed after investors lowered

their expectations of a March rate cut by the Federal Reserve. Statistics South Africa will release consumer and producer price inflation figures for December this week, ahead of the South African Reserve Bank’s (SARB) rate decision on Thursday. SARB governor Lesetja Kganyago has said he wants to see inflation decline sustainable to the 4.5 per cent mark before considering rate cuts. Consumer inflation, was at 5.5 per cent in November and is expected to average 5 per cent in 2024. South Africa’s benchmark 2030 government bond was flat in early deals, with the yield at 9.765 per cent. (Reuters)

SHANGHAI/BEIJING — China’s major state-owned banks moved to support the yuan on Monday, tightening liquidity in the offshore foreign exchange market while actively selling U.S. dollars onshore as equities slid, four sources with knowledge of the matter said. The goal was to prevent the yuan from falling too fast as China’s A shares plunged, said one of the people, with the benchmark Shanghai Composite index, opens new tab posting its biggest one-day drop since April 2022 on Monday, down 2.7%. “It is a clear policy signal to stabilise the yuan and counter the negative market sentiment on equities,” said Gary Ng, senior economist for Asia Pacific at Natixis. Overseas funds have sold roughly \$1.6 billion in Chinese equities so far this year, with investor confidence bruised by signs of slowdown in the world’s second largest economy. Offshore yuan tomorrow-next forwards jumped to a more than two-month high of 4.25 points late on Monday, reflecting signs of tighter liquidity conditions. The rise come as state banks in the offshore market curtailed lending to their peers, one of the sources said. The move effectively tightened up offshore yuan liquidity and raised the cost of shorting the currency.



▲Woman holds Chinese Yuan banknotes in this illustration.

Meanwhile, the state banks were also selling dollars in the onshore spot foreign exchange market to prevent rapid yuan declines, three sources said. Spot dollar selling became aggressive to defend the 7.2 per dollar level, one of them

said. All the sources spoke on condition of anonymity as they are not allowed to publicly discuss market conditions. State banks often act on behalf of China’s central bank in the foreign exchange market,

but they could also trade on their own behalf or execute clients’ orders. The onshore yuan last traded at 7.1963 per dollar, down nearly 1.4% so far this year, while its offshore counterpart last fetched 7.2047. (Reuters)

SONY called off the merger between its India unit and Zee Entertainment on Monday, ending a two-year acquisition deliberation that would have created a \$10 billion media powerhouse in the South Asian market.

Sony said in a statement that it has sent a termination letter to Zee after the Indian firm failed to meet the conditions, despite a 30-day extension. Sony said it was “extremely disappointed” that the Indian firm failed to do its part for the deal.

Prospects of the deal going through resulted in a 60% rally in Zee’s shares in the second half of 2023. The Indian stock market is closed today because of a public holiday in the state of Maharashtra.

Sony Pictures Networks India, the Indian arm wholly-owned by the Japanese conglomerate, was pushing for the removal of Zee’s chief executive Punit Goenka from staying on with — and leading — the merged entity following the deal, according to people familiar with the matter. Goenka fought back for months, and local media reported last week that he may agree to step down.

Sony also sought for Zee to improve its finances, something that has only grown worse in recent quarters. The two firms announced their intention to merge the entities in September 2021. The deal would have created a \$10 billion media powerhouse in India, where billionaire Mukesh Ambani is increasingly flexing his wealth and reach in the media business.

Ambani’s Reliance is in advanced stages of

‘Sign from the Lord’

... Sony tells Zee it’s terminating the \$10 billion India merger

talks to acquire a 51% stake in Disney’s India business, which includes the streaming service Hotstar.

“I resolve to move ahead positively and work towards strengthening Bharat’s pioneering M&E Company, for all its stakeholders,” Goenka said in a tweet Monday, calling the news a “sign from the lord.”

The merger between Zee and Sony’s India business was seen as key for both the firms for their future outlook in the country.

Merger

“The Disney+Reliance merger would create a strong market leader with over 40% TV viewership share and a dominant streaming presence (Disney+Hotstar and JioCinema are the two largest OTT platforms in India by MAU share). Zee and Sony have viewership shares of c16% and c8-10% respectively, and in our view, a merged Zee+Sony entity, with a c25-30% viewership share, would be in a much better position to compete with the Reliance + Disney merged entity,” UBS analysts said earlier this month.

Zee and Sony have been important fixtures in the Indian TV industry for the last 25 years. Sony launched Sony Entertainment Television in India in 1995 and has aired some



▲ Sony said in a statement that it has sent a termination letter to Zee after the Indian firm failed to meet the conditions, despite a 30-day extension.

of the most memorable shows including “Indian Idol,” and “Kaun Banega Crorepati,” an official Hindi adaptation of “Who Wants to be a Millionaire?”

The firms also operate on-demand

streaming services such as Zee5 and SonyLiv that compete with dozens of other players including Netflix, Amazon Prime Video and Disney’s Hotstar and Ambani’s JioCinema.

(TechCrunch)



▲ “Sensitive media” is a label X uses to denote content that others may not wish to see, like violence or nudity.

X says a bug caused numerous posts to be labeled as ‘Sensitive Media’

A bug on X, formerly Twitter, was causing numerous posts over the weekend to be flagged as “Sensitive Media,” thwarting the company’s own attempts to make its platform more approachable to advertisers.

According to the X Safety account in a post, the issue has now been fixed and the team is working on removing the labels from impacted posts.

“Sensitive media” is a label X uses to denote content that others may not wish to see, like violence or nudity. X asks its users who want to regularly post such items, to adjust their media settings to appropriately mark their images. In addition, there’s an option to add a one-time sensitive content warning to photos and videos across X on iOS, Android, and the web. Posts can be marked as nudity, violence, or just “sensitive” to restrict viewing behind a blurred content warning that requires an additional

click or tap to view the media.

However, X users were finding that even innocuous photos and media were being marked as “sensitive” — something the company itself can do, if it reviews reported items and then chooses to add the label to the media to protect users. In the days before Twitter’s acquisition by Elon Musk, a combination of automation and human review (members of the company’s trust and safety team) would act on these reports to make the decision.

In this most recent event, the issue may have been the work of a spam bot, according to a post by Musk, which somewhat contradicts the X Safety announcement.

On Sunday, Musk wrote “An X spam/scam bot accidentally flagged many legitimate accounts today. This is being fixed.” An hour later, he reposted the message from the X safety team which referred to the issue as a bug.

(TechCrunch)

Exxon throws a fit over shareholders exercising rights

IT’s a dirty little secret in business that everybody has a boss, even the bosses. Top executives report to the CEO, the CEO answers to the board, and the board serves at the whim of the shareholders.

Exxon’s management has now decided that it doesn’t like what its bosses have to say.

On Sunday evening, the oil supermajor filed a lawsuit in federal court asking for permission to ignore a shareholder resolution at its next annual meeting.

The resolution was proposed by Arjuna Capital and Follow This, two activist investors that are seeking to compel Exxon to rein in its vast carbon emissions.

Hang on a minute, aren’t shareholders supposed to be sacrosanct? Isn’t the whole point of a corporation to please its shareholders? That’s what Milton Friedman said when he argued in favor of shareholder primacy back in 1970:

In a free enter-

prise, private property system, a corporate executive is an employee of the owners of the business. He has direct responsibility to his employers. That responsibility is to conduct the business in accordance with their desires, which generally will be to make as much money as possible while conforming to the basic rules of the society, both those embodied in law and those embodied in ethical custom. (Emphases added.) The new shareholder resolution calls on the oil company to reduce its Scope 3 emissions or those that result from the use of its products. In Exxon’s case, that’s mostly the burning of fossil fuels. The problem Exxon faces is that the “basic rules of society,” specifically “those embedded in ethical custom,” are changing, and the company now finds itself on the wrong side of them.

Two-thirds of Americans say we should prioritize alternative energy over fossil fuels, and 69% say the U.S. should move toward net-zero emissions by 2050, according to the Pew Research Center. Internationally, most people want their governments to do something about climate change.

(TechCrunch)



▲ The Exxon sign.

Cameroon starts world's first malaria vaccine program for children

CAMEROON will be the first country to routinely give children a new malaria vaccine as the shots are rolled out in Africa.

The campaign due to start Monday was described by officials as a milestone in the decades-long effort to curb the mosquito-spread disease on the continent, which accounts for 95% of the world's malaria deaths.

"The vaccination will save lives. It will provide major relief to families and the country's health system," said Aurelia Nguyen, chief program officer at the Gavi vaccines alliance, which is helping Cameroon secure the shots.

The Central Africa nation hopes to vaccinate about 250,000 children this year and next year. Gavi said it is working with 20 other African countries to help them get the vaccine and that those countries will hopefully immunize more than 6 million children through 2025.

In Africa, there are about 250 million cases of the parasitic disease each year, including 600,000 deaths, mostly in young children.

Cameroon will use the first of two recently approved malaria vaccines, known as Mosquirix. The World Health Organization endorsed the vaccine two years ago, acknowledging that that even though it is imperfect, its use would still dramatically reduce severe infections and hospitalizations.

The GlaxoSmithKline-produced shot is only about 30% effective, requires four doses and protection begins to fade after several months. The vaccine was tested in Africa and



▲ Cameroon will be the first country to routinely give children a new malaria vaccine as the shots are rolled out in Africa.

used in pilot programs in three countries.

GSK has said it can only produce about 15 million doses of Mosquirix a year and some experts believe a second malaria vaccine developed by Oxford University and approved by WHO in October might be a more practical solution. That vaccine is cheaper, requires three doses and India's Serum Institute said they could make up to 200 million doses a year.

Gavi's Nguyen said they hoped there might be enough of the Oxford vaccines available to begin immunizing people later this year.

Neither of the malaria vaccines stop transmission, so other tools like bed nets and insecticidal spraying will still be critical. The malaria parasite mostly spreads to people via infected mosquitoes and can cause symptoms including fever, headaches and chills.

(Reuters)



▲ Namibian President Hage Geingob.

Namibian president to undergo cancer treatment

NAMIBIAN President Hage Geingob will start treatment for cancer after routine medical checkups and a follow-up biopsy led to the detection of cancerous cells, his office said.

The Namibian Presidency said Friday the 82-year-old had a colonoscopy and a gastroscopy on Jan. 8, followed by a biopsy.

"On the advice of the medical team, President Geingob will undertake appropriate medical treatment to deal with the cancerous cells," his office added.

Geingob, who has been president of the southern African nation since 2015, is due to continue to carry out presidential duties, alongside the Cabinet, of which he is the Chairperson.

In June 2023, he underwent an aortic operation. He revealed in 2014 when he was still Prime Minister that he'd survived a prostate cancer.

Presidential and National Assembly elections are scheduled for the end of this year. (AFP)

EU adopts sanctions against six entities involved in Sudan war

BRUSSELS - The European Council on Monday adopted sanctions against six entities involved in the war in Sudan, where the regular army (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have been fighting since last April.

The Council said in a statement the six entities were responsible for "supporting activities undermining the stability and political transition of Sudan".

Among those listed are two companies involved in the manufacture of weapons and vehicles for the SAF (Defense Industries System and SMT Engineering); the SAF-controlled Zadna International Company for Investment Limited and three companies involved in procuring military equipment for the RSF (Al Junaid Multi Activities Co Ltd, Tradive



▲ The European Council on Monday adopted sanctions against six entities involved in the war in Sudan, where the regular army (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have been

General Trading and GSK Advance Company Ltd).

"The entities listed are subject to asset freezes. The provision of funds or economic resources, directly or indirectly, to them or for their benefit is prohibited," the Council said.

In November, the European Union condemned an escalation of violence in Sudan's Darfur region, warning of the danger of another genocide after conflict there between 2003-2008 killed some 300,000 people and

displaced more than 2 million.

The bloodshed has continued to escalate despite international attempts to forge a lasting ceasefire. The war has uprooted more than 5 million people from their homes and created a humanitarian crisis.

"The EU remains deeply concerned about the humanitarian situation in Sudan and reaffirms its steadfast support for, and solidarity with, the Sudanese people," the Council said. (Reuters)

Blinken's latest diplomatic trip will take him to Africa

SECRETARY of State Antony Blinken is planning to visit four African countries as the Biden administration tries to keep its eyes on all corners of the world while being consumed by crises in Ukraine, the Mideast and the Red Sea. The State Department announced on Thursday that Blinken will go to Cape Verde, Ivory Coast, Nigeria and Angola starting Sunday for talks focused on regional security, conflict prevention, democracy promotion and trade. Nigeria is West Africa's regional heavyweight and plays a major role in security issues, especially those involving Islamic extremist violence in the Sahel, the vast arid expanse south of the Sahara Desert.

The trip will be his third overseas mission in the new year. He returned from a Gaza-focused, weeklong 10-nation trip to the Middle East last Thursday and a



▲ Secretary of State Antony Blinken is planning to visit four African countries

three-day trip to the World Economic Forum in Switzerland on Wednesday.

Blinken's Africa trip comes as the United States is increasingly nervous about its relationships on the continent, particularly after coups last year in Niger and Gabon, and escalating unrest in Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In addition, the U.S. and China are in a battle for

influence throughout Africa. That topic will likely top his the agenda in Angola, which China has targeted for significant investment.

Blinken will highlight the administration's partnership with African nation on issues such as the climate, economic investment, food and health, department spokesman Matthew Miller said in a statement.

(AP)

‘Israeli plan to destroy Hamas not working, peace talks needed’

BRUSSELS - Israel’s plan to destroy Islamist Palestinian group Hamas in Gaza is not working and the European Union must pursue efforts to create a “two-state solution” despite Israeli opposition, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said on Monday.

Israeli Prime Minister had on Sunday reaffirmed a hard line against any Palestinian state as it would pose “an existential danger” to Israel. He said Israel would keep insisting on full security control over all territory west of the Jordan River, which would include Gaza and the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Borrell spoke at the monthly gathering of EU foreign ministers, attended this time by counterparts from Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan and the Arab League secretary-general. The talks will focus mainly on the consequences of Hamas’ Oct. 7 attack on Israel and Israel’s retaliatory offensive in Gaza.

Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz and Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki were making separate appearances at the meeting, which was also taking stock of the war in Ukraine.

Alluding to Israel’s stated objective of annihilating Hamas in its devastating three-month-old war in the Gaza Strip, Borrell told reporters: “What are the other solutions they have in mind. Make all the Palestinians leave? Kill all of them?...The way they are destroying Hamas is not the way to do it. They are sealing the hate for generations.”

Borrell said he wanted to press ahead with international efforts to create a process that would lead to a Palestinian state co-existing alongside Israel. The last talks to that end collapsed a decade ago amid mutual mistrust and intransigence.



▲ European Union’s foreign policy chief Josep Borrell speaks during a joint news conference with Lebanon’s caretaker Foreign Minister Abdallah Bou Habib in Beirut, Lebanon.

Israel’s massive aerial and ground offensive in small, densely populated Gaza has killed more than 25,000 Palestinians, according to Hamas-run enclave’s health authorities, flattened built-up areas and left most of its 2.3 million people homeless.

Israel has said the war could go on for “many months” and it would not rest until Hamas was eradicated, all Israeli hostages freed and the Gaza Strip posed no more se-

curity threat.

“We have engaged in over 30 years of process and look where that has got us,” Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi told reporters, referring to intermittent Israeli-Palestinian peace talks since the 1990s.

“A moment of truth is upon us. Do we allow a radical racist agenda to dictate the future or come together and say the path is clear, we want peace for everybody and a

two-state solution is the only path, go ahead and implement it?”

In brief remarks to reporters, Israeli foreign minister Katz said he was in Brussels to discuss the issue of hostages held by Hamas and to reaffirm that Israel would dismantle Hamas and restore its national security. He took no questions.

Ahead of the Brussels meeting, the EU’s diplomatic service sent a discussion paper to its 27 member countries, suggesting a roadmap to peace in the broader Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

At the heart of the plan is a call for a “preparatory peace conference” to be organised by the EU, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and the League of Arab States, with the United States and United Nations also invited to be conveners of the gathering.

The conference would go ahead even if Israelis or Palestinians declined to take part. But both parties would be consulted at every step of the talks as delegates sought to draw up a peace plan, the document suggests.

The internal document, seen by multiple news organisations including Reuters, makes clear one key goal of a peace plan should be the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, “living side by side with Israel in peace and security”.

EU officials concede that Israeli officials and diplomats currently evince no interest in the so-called two-state solution but insist it is the only option for long-term peace.

The Palestinian side is deeply split over the approach, with the Western-backed Palestinian Authority that exercises limited self-rule in the West Bank having negotiated with Israel, while the PA’s arch-rival Hamas is sworn to Israel’s destruction.

(Reuters)

Netanyahu rejects Hamas conditions for Israeli hostage deal

JERUSALEM - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday rejected conditions presented by Hamas to end the war and release hostages that would include Israel’s complete withdrawal and leaving Hamas in power in Gaza.

As Israeli planes resumed bombing Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip, senior Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri told Reuters the Israeli leader’s refusal to end the military offensive in Gaza “means there is no chance for the return of the (Israeli) captives.”

“In exchange for the release of our hostages, Hamas demands the end of the war, the withdrawal of our forces from Gaza, the release of all the murderers and rapists,” Netanyahu said in a statement. “And leaving Hamas intact.”

“I reject outright the terms of surrender of the monsters of Hamas,” Netanyahu said.

Under a deal brokered in late November by the United States, Qatar and Egypt, more than 100 of the estimated 240 hostages taken captive to Gaza during an attack by Hamas militants on Oct. 7 were freed in ex-

change for the release of 240 Palestinians held in Israeli prisons.

Since then, Netanyahu has faced mounting pressure to secure the release the 136 hostages who remain in captivity.

The Hostages and Missing Persons Families Forum demanded in a statement that Netanyahu “clearly state that we will not abandon civilians, soldiers, and others kidnapped in the October debacle.”

“We must advance the deal now,” it said. “If the prime minister decides to sacrifice the hostages,

he should show leadership and honestly share his position with the Israeli public.”

Relatives of the hostages at a protest outside Netanyahu’s residence demanded action.

“We need

the government to now fix the problem that they have created and get these hostages home immediately,” said Jon Polin, father of Hersh Goldberg-Polin.

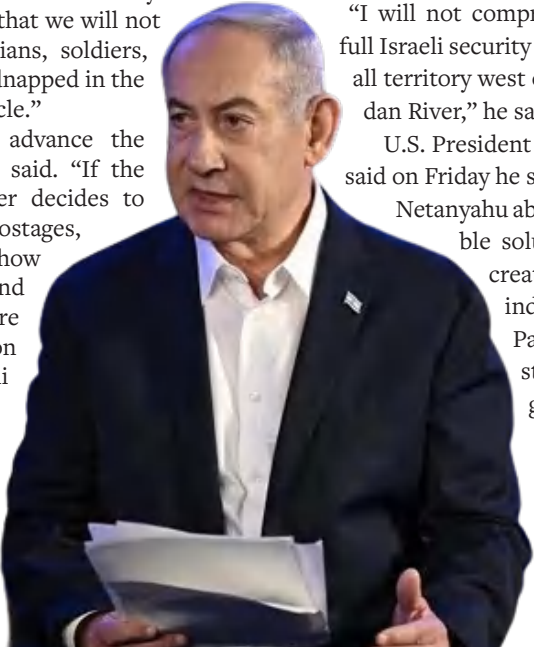
Netanyahu also took a stronger line on the issue of Palestinian statehood than before.

“I will not compromise on full Israeli security control of all territory west of the Jordan River,” he said.

U.S. President Joe Biden said on Friday he spoke with Netanyahu about possible solutions for

creation of an independent Palestinian state, suggesting one path could involve a non-militarized government.

(Reuters)



▲ Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Iran’s FM to visit Pakistan to rebuild ties after missile strikes

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan said on Monday Iran’s foreign minister will visit the country next week, signaling efforts to mend relations after the neighbours exchanged missile strikes last week at what they said were militant targets.

Ambassadors of both countries have also been asked to return to their posts by Jan. 26, the Pakistani foreign ministry said in a statement. Iran’s foreign ministry confirmed that Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian would visit on Monday, and said its ambassador would resume duties in Islamabad on Friday.

Pakistan had recalled its ambassador to Tehran and had not allowed his counterpart to return to Islamabad, as well as cancelling all high-level diplomatic and trade engagements.

“At the invitation of Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani,

Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hossein Amir Abdollahian, will undertake a visit to Pakistan on 29 January 2024,” a Pakistani foreign office statement said.

The tit-for-tat strikes by the two countries were the highest-profile cross-border intrusions in recent years and have raised alarm about wider instability in the region since the war between Israel and Hamas erupted on Oct. 7.

The two Muslim nations have had a history of rocky relations, but the intrusions amounted to the highest level of attacks in decades.

Islamabad said it hit bases of the separatist Baloch Liberation Front and Baloch Liberation Army, while Tehran said its missiles struck militants from the Jaish al Adl (JAA) group.

(Reuters)

Uncle Waffles takes London by storm

Stories by Siphesihle Dlamini
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IF someone told Uncle Waffles three years ago that she would host a sold-out show in London, she probably would have mockingly laughed at that person because it seemed unrealistic.

Just like Adidas' mantra, "Impossible is Nothing," nothing is undoable. Visionary leader and the first Black South African president, Nelson Mandela once said, "It always seems impossible until it's done."

All those quotes perfectly explain Uncle Waffles' achievement of successfully hosting her UK event dubbed, 'We Love Waffles' at the iconic Studio 338 last Saturday.

The sold-out show had a star-studded lineup of renowned DJs and musicians, making it a night to remember. The event featured a lineup of some of the hottest DJs in the industry, including Nicky Summers, Jeremiah Asiamah, DJ Laj, Duo, Via Seri, DJ Ruv, and Tee See. The crowd was treated to an unforgettable night of music, dancing, and pure joy as Uncle Waffles took the stage and delivered a performance that left everyone in awe.

Uncle Waffles, known for her unique style and infectious energy, has been making waves in the music scene with her catchy beats and captivating performances. Her rise to fame has been nothing short of extraordinary, and her success in hosting a sold-out show in London is a testament to her talent and hard work.

Following the success of 'We Love Waffles,' she is set to headline the UnitedMasters Grammy Weekend Concert, sharing the stage with international superstars Davido and Tokischa. The after-party of the Grammy Awards will take place at the prestigious Hollywood Palladium on Friday, February 2, 2024. This incredible opportunity will see



▲ Uncle Waffles.

Uncle Waffles performing in front of a global audience.

After selling out her 'We Love Waffles' London show, Uncle Waffles has followed suit in the footsteps of giant musicians who successfully hosted shows in America. Nigerian Afrobeats sensation Burna Boy recently sold-out multiple

shows in New York and Philadelphia during his 'I Told Them' Tour. South African Grammy award-winning DJ, Black Coffee, also made history by headlining New York's Madison Square Garden on October 7 last year, becoming the first South African DJ and producer to achieve such a feat.



▲ M Nation.

M Nation to release 'Lonyaka Ngulonyaka'

ESWATINI musician, M Nation is gearing up to release his highly anticipated single, 'Lonyaka Ngulonyaka.'

Collaborating with the talented Samu Once Again, known for her hit track 'Ama 2000,' M Nation aims to make a powerful statement with this song.

'Lonyaka Ngulonyaka' serves as a declaration from M Nation that this year is his breakthrough year, where all his dreams and blessings will come to fruition. With its release scheduled for this Friday, the song embodies the artist's belief that success can be achieved through hard work and determination.

M Nation expressed excitement about the track, describing it as a great song produced by DJ TPZ and Rambo S. The genre of 'Lonyaka Ngulonyaka' is Afro House, a popular style that blends traditional African rhythms with modern electronic beats.

The artist believes that this song will serve as an inspiration to many, encouraging them to pursue their goals and dreams relentlessly. M Nation hopes that listeners will connect with the lyrics and find the motivation to overcome obstacles and achieve greatness. He urged his fans to embrace the tune and participate in TikTok challenges to help spread the word about the song.

With M Nation's infectious energy and the catchy beats of 'Lonyaka Ngulonyaka,' this single is poised to make waves in the music industry.

Dance Derby a resounding success

ORGANISED by the talented Trend Twins, The Dance Derby proved to be a sensational event that left the audience in awe of the dancers' skills and creativity.

Held at the Olympia Africa Development Centre, this second edition of the Dance Derby was nothing short of a blast. Leading up to the event, there was a bit of concern about the consistent rainfall in the past few days. However, luck was on their side as the weather cleared up, providing the perfect sunny day for the Dance Derby to take place. The organisers couldn't have asked for better conditions.

In an interview with the Trend Twins, they expressed satisfaction with how the event unfolded. Not only did they manage to attract a larger crowd compared to the first edition, but they also saw a significant number of new faces. It seems that word-of-mouth from the inaugural edition's attendees, as well as the social media buzz

surrounding the event, played a significant role in drawing in new participants.

The Trend Twins emphasised that the Dance Derby is not just about having fun and showcasing dance skills but also a sport that promotes fitness and physical well-being. They were thrilled to see people from other sports at the Olympia Africa Development Center taking a break from their activities to watch the dancers in action.

The organisers took the opportunity to express gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of the event. They thanked the Body Movement Club team, the Oukitel team, and all the well-known personalities who came out to show their support. Special mentions were given to S'Iwane, Gogo Eswatini, DJ Dibo, the dancers, choreographers, fans, videographer Seawater, and the management of Olympia Africa Development for their invaluable assistance.



▲ Dancers belting out some dance moves at the Dance Derby.

Stories by Siphesihle Dlamini
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TALENTED Croatian-born musician, Ziza Muftic is set to mesmerize fun-loving music enthusiasts at the Mountain View International Hotel in Mbabane.

This event, organized by The Jazz Gallery, aims to celebrate 20 years of showcasing the finest regional jazz and exquisite music. In a recent social media post, The Jazz Gallery expressed excitement, stating, "We are thrilled to kick off 2024 with this truly amazing offering. Ziza Muftic will finally grace The Jazz Gallery stage, and we just can't wait."

Scheduled for February 23, 2024, the event's tickets are priced at E350. Ziza Muftic will be accompanied by a talented band, including Amaeshi Ikechi on the upright bass and David Cousins on the base, enhancing the magic of her performance.

Ziza Muftic is a multifaceted artist, renowned as a jazz vocalist, educator, pianist, and composer. Though she currently calls Johannesburg home, her roots trace back to Zagreb, Croatia. Throughout her career, Ziza has had the

privilege of collaborating with some of South Africa's top jazz musicians, including Sydney Mnisi, Reza Khota, and Marcus Wyatt.

In March 2015, Ziza released her debut album, titled 'Ziza Muftic Quartet: Silver Moonbeams.'

Captivating

This remarkable piece of art was produced by the esteemed South African jazz trumpet player and composer, Marcus Wyatt. The album received critical acclaim, solidifying Ziza's position as a rising star in the jazz scene.

Building on her success, Ziza released her second independent album, "Ziza: Shining Hour," in 2019. This captivating album was produced by Theodora and Kevin Drummond of Hot Club d'Afrique, showcasing Ziza's growth as an artist and her ability to captivate audiences with her soulful voice and profound musicality.



▲ Renowned jazz singer Ziza Muftic

Judah billed for Romantic Repertoire

ESWATINI'S musical prodigy, Judah, is gearing up to captivate music enthusiasts with his mesmerising melodies at the much-anticipated Romantic Repertoire event.

Hosted by the Mpaka Recreational Club, this enchanting evening of fine dining and soulful tunes promises to be an unforgettable experience. The event is slated for February 17, 2024.

The event calls for a smart casual dress code, allowing attendees to feel relaxed yet stylish as they immerse themselves in the ambiance of the night. With tickets priced at E450 for a delightful dinner for two, Romantic Repertoire offers the perfect opportunity to indulge in a romantic evening with your loved one.

Judah, a multi-talented artist, singer, composer, songwriter, and producer, has firmly established himself as a force to be reckoned with in the Swazi music industry. With a natural artistic flair and an undeniable passion for his craft, Judah's musical artistry knows no bounds.

Blending soul, R&B, and Afro-pop, Judah's fresh fusion sound is at the forefront of the next generation of Swati musicians. Hailing from the vibrant city of Manzini, he draws

inspiration from legendary artists such as Hugh Masekela, Tsepo Tshola, Jabu Khanyisa, Joe Thomas, Boys II Men, and Musiq Schoolchild, infusing their influences into his unique musical stylings.

Judah's previous single, 'Buya S'tsanzane,' has become a timeless dancefloor filler, radiating summer vibes that have taken the airwaves by storm. The track soared to the top spot on Eswatini Radio's Top 20, garnering widespread acclaim not only within Eswatini but also in neighboring countries such as South Africa, Botswana, Mozambique, and Zambia.

Continuing his streak of musical excellence, Judah's released a single, 'Sawubona,' featuring seasoned Eswatini rapper Kena, and it was a captivating blend of old-school kwaito infused with a touch of pop and soul.

Sarnilo to entice audiences at Swazi Plaza Nights

SONGBIRD, Sarnilo is set to entice fun lovers at the Swazi Plaza Nights.

The event is set to kick off the year with a bang as it has announced its highly anticipated 'Summer Edition' event.

This exciting event, scheduled to take place on January 26, 2024, from 6 pm, promises to be a night filled with joy, laughter, and unforgettable experiences for all who attend. The

best part is that it is free for everyone. Apart from Sarnilo's performance, the event will also feature DJ MBO.

Eswatini-based singer, songwriter, rapper, and poet,

Sarnilo, is best known for her captivating lyrics, versatility, and eclectic music. Her smooth and soul-filled raps, soothingly toned voice as well as her new school Afro-centric style are a few of the energies she exudes in the studio and on stage.

She describes her music as soul-capturing, fun, experimental, and emotive. Sarnilo, being a bi-cultural artist, uses her diverse background to influence her songwriting and singing style.

Born to a Malawian mother and Swati father she uniquely incorporates both SiSwati and Chichewa in her music.

Swazi Plaza Nights has become a beloved tradition, known for its vibrant atmosphere and engaging group activities. It was conceived to bring families together and provide a platform for local talent to shine.

Delightful

This event, hosted at the family-friendly Food Court, offers a unique opportunity for parents to enjoy a delightful evening under the stars, while their children indulge in exciting games within the various restaurants.

The magic of Swazi Plaza Nights lies in its ability to bridge the gap between a lively event and an early night. The relaxed ambiance allows attendees to savor delicious dinners and drinks while immersing themselves in premium entertainment.

Swazi Plaza aims to bring accessible entertainment to its customers, allowing them to experience the talents of local artists in a central location, free of charge.

● The magic of Swazi Plaza Nights lies in its ability to bridge the gap between a lively event and an early night.

► Musician Judah.

▲ Songbird Sarnilo.

Londie London dumps hospitalised Mabonga

FORMER Real Housewives of Durban star and singer Londie London says she broke up with her businessman boyfriend Sphamandla Mabonga.

Mabonga was placed on police watch in hospital on Saturday morning after a shoot-out at the Tempo nightclub in Sandton.

Londie London, real name Londiwe Zulu, started dating Mabonga in July last year following a messy breakup with the father of her two children, Hlubi Nkosi.

On Saturday morning, while Mabonga was fighting for his life at the Mediclinic private hospital in Morningside, Londie London told Sunday World she broke up with him.

“Please don’t ask me anything about that guy. We broke up. Don’t ask me when.

“Call him for all your questions.”

The startling revelation came just a month after the pair was spotted painting the town red at Konka nightclub in Soweto.

The lovebirds were accused of foul behaviour at the club after they allegedly assaulted a female journalist.

Following his hospital admission early yesterday, Sunday World understands Mabonga has been placed



▲ Londie London and her ex boyfriend Sphamandla Mabonga during happier times.

under police guard for various matters including the assault of the journalist.

He was allegedly shot in the ribs

after an altercation turned violent at Tempo leading to a shoot-out between him and another patron.

(Sunday World)

Must be ‘God’s Plan’ that Drake lost R13-million bet against Dricus du Plessis

THE UFC 297 championship main event between then-middleweight champion Sean Strickland (USA) and South Africa’s Dricus du Plessis is still the talk of the town.

It’s really no surprise though, especially since Canadian rapper Drake lost \$700,000 (about R13.3-million) after betting that defending champion Sean Strickland would retain his UFC middleweight title.

South Africa’s Du Plessis ended the night with the coveted championship belt and as he walked out of the ring, Drake’s hit song ‘God’s Plan’ played at the venue.

Prior to the game, Drake who is an avid better, shared on his Instagram Stories his betting slip that showed how much he put behind Strickland.

Last year, Drake lost out on a huge sum when he backed Israel Adesanya.

He also previously lost \$1-million (about R18m) after placing a bet



▲ Dricus Du Plessis after defeating Sean Strickland.

on Argentina to beat France in the 2022 World Cup final.

While Drake is probably still nursing his loss that most likely didnt cause much of a dent on his bank ac-

count, Du Plessis has been

celebrating since.

But that hasnt stopped social media users from trolling Drake for his major loss.

“History has been made,” he wrote on his social media platforms that showed his bruised face.

“This is Africa we fear nothing and certainly no one!! Thank you South Africa, it’s an honour representing our beautiful nation.”

South Africans are celebrating the win that has once again placed the country in international headlines, with Du Plessis been congratulated by Cassper Nyovest and Siya Kolisi. (IOL)



▲ Jennifer Hudson and Common have confirmed they are dating.

Jennifer Hudson, Common confirm their relationship in the most adorable way

JENNIFER

Hudson and Common have confirmed they are dating.

The 51-year-old rapper is the special guest on the 42-year-old actress and singer’s eponymous daytime talk show on Monday and the pair, who have been rumoured to be dating since 2022, discussed their relationship without mentioning each other’s names, though Common gave some very obvious clues that his partner is Hudson.

She asked him: “Now, we got to get down to business, Mr Common. I’m a host and so I have to ask you this question ‘cause everybody always wants to know this. Are you dating anyone?”

To which he replied: “So, yes, and I’m in a relationship that is one of the most beautiful people I ever met in life, and she’s smart, she loves God, she has something real down to earth about her.”

Before he continued: “I set my standard kind of high, ‘cause she had to have an EGOT (Emmy, Grammy, Tony, Oscar), she had to win an Oscar on her first movie. I set my standard high. She had to get her own talk show.”

Hudson - who previously worked with her beau on the movie ‘Breathe’ - is an EGOT holder and famously earned her first Academy Award for her portrayal of Effie White in the musical ‘Dreamgirls’.

Common - who sweetly brought her flowers into the studio - then asked Hudson: “What about you though? How is your love life?”

And she gushed back: “I’m dating as well, and I am very happy.”

Common also gushed: “This relationship is a happy place for me.

“For me, it’s one of those things where I found where seeing her happy actually makes me really happy. I’m very grateful. I thank God every day and I’m just letting God guide this relationship.”

In November, the ‘Respect’ star teased that she was dating a “mystery man”.

The chart-topping star told ‘CBS Mornings’: “I am very happy, yes, ma’am.

“Boo’ed up? I think it’s more sophisticated than boo’ed up ... Definitely not an entanglement. That’s for sure.”

(Bang Showbiz)

Top musicians butt heads over learners who failed grade 12

TWO KwaZulu-Natal musicians have been butting heads in an online slug fest over a post about matriculants who failed their 2023 year-end exams. Intaba yaseDubai and Duncan tore each other apart after the former shared a post viewed by many as a jab on the rapper, whose real name is Siphamandla Msomi.

The Afropop singer encouraged the learners who failed matric not to bury their heads in the sand, but to pick themselves up and forge ahead.

The Ngiyamthanda hit-maker wrote: “If your name doesn’t appear on paper, don’t despair, you can still make it happen [in life].

“Even the likes of Duncan SA are not educated but they are trying, besides that dagga is killing them.” The post got

the KwaMashu-born Duncan hot under the collar.

He responded: “As proof that a person is illiterate and stupid is when he signs a complex contract that pays him R3 700 because he can’t comprehend the terms and conditions.”

Intaba yaseDubai, born Lindokuhle Msomi, did not take the response lightly.

“Well, how sure are you about that? What will you say if I say I never signed that contract? There was just informal talks,” hit back Intaba yaseDubai.

However, Duncan did not back down, and continued to throw another jab: “During those contract negotiations, since they were conducted in English, all you kept saying was “exactly”.

(Sunday World)

HEART disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. It can't be cured or reversed, but medications, procedures, and lifestyle changes can relieve many symptoms.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 1 in 5 deaths resulted from heart disease in 2021 in the United States. That's about 695 000 people.

Who gets heart disease?

Heart disease doesn't discriminate. It's the leading cause of death for several populations, including white people, Hispanic people, and Black people. Almost half of people in the United States are at risk of heart disease, and the numbers are rising.

While it can be deadly, it's also preventable in most people. By adopting certain lifestyle habits early, you can potentially live longer with a healthier heart.

What are the different types of heart disease?

Heart disease encompasses a wide range of cardiovascular problems. Several diseases and conditions fall under the umbrella of heart disease.

- Types of heart disease include:
- ▶ arrhythmia
 - ▶ atherosclerosis
 - ▶ cardiomyopathy
 - ▶ congenital heart defects
 - ▶ coronary artery disease (CAD)
 - ▶ heart infections

The term "cardiovascular disease" may also refer to heart conditions that specifically affect the blood vessels.

What are the symptoms of heart disease?

Different types of heart disease can cause a variety of symptoms.

Arrhythmia
Arrhythmia is an abnormal heart rhythm. The symptoms you experience may depend on the type of arrhythmia you have, such as a heart rate that's too fast or too slow.

Atherosclerosis
Atherosclerosis reduces blood supply to your extremities. In addition to chest pain and shortness of breath, symptoms of atherosclerosis include fatigue and muscle weakness in the legs from poor circulation.

Congenital heart defects
Congenital heart defects are heart problems that develop when a fetus is growing. Some heart defects are never diagnosed. Others may be detected when they cause symptoms.

Coronary artery disease (CAD)
CAD is plaque buildup in the arteries that move oxygen-rich blood through the heart and lungs.

Cardiomyopathy
Cardiomyopathy is a disease that causes the heart muscles to grow larger and turn rigid, thick, or weak.

Heart infections
Heart infections include the conditions endocarditis and myocarditis.

What are the symptoms of heart disease in women?

Females often experience different signs and symptoms of heart disease than males, specifically CAD and other cardiovascular

Everything you need to know about heart disease



diseases.

A 2016 study looked at the symptoms most often seen in women who had experienced a heart attack. The top symptoms didn't include the "classic" heart attack symptoms, such as chest pain and tingling. Instead, researchers reported that women were more likely to experience anxiety, indigestion, and fatigue.

Symptoms of heart disease in females can also be confused with other conditions, such as depression, menopause, and anxiety.

What causes heart disease?

Heart disease is a collection of diseases and conditions that cause cardiovascular problems. Each type of heart disease is caused by something entirely unique to that condition.

- Arrhythmia causes**
The causes of an abnormal heart rhythm include:
- ▶ diabetes
 - ▶ CAD
 - ▶ heart defects
 - ▶ high blood pressure (hypertension)
 - ▶ certain medications

Congenital heart defect causes
This heart disease occurs while a baby is still developing in the uterus. Some heart defects may be serious and diagnosed and treated early. Some may also go undiagnosed for many years.

Your heart's structure can also change as you age. This can create a heart defect that may lead to complications and problems.

Cardiomyopathy causes

- There are several types of cardiomyopathy. Each type is the result of a separate condition:
- ▶ dilated cardiomyopathy (the most common type)
 - ▶ hypertrophic cardiomyopathy
 - ▶ restrictive cardiomyopathy

The causes range from other medical conditions or comorbidities or genetics. Not all the causes are fully understood.

Heart infection causes
Bacteria, parasites, and viruses are the most common causes of heart infections. Uncontrolled infections in the body can also harm the heart if they're not properly treated.

What are some risk factors for heart disease?

- There are many risk factors for heart disease. Some are controllable and others aren't.
- According to the CDC, around 47% of people in the United States have at least one risk factor for heart disease. Some of these risk factors include:
- ▶ high blood pressure
 - ▶ high cholesterol and low levels of high-density lipoprotein (HDL), the "good" cholesterol
 - ▶ smoking
 - ▶ obesity
 - ▶ low physical activity
- Smoking, for example, is a controllable risk factor. People who smoke double their chance of developing heart disease, according to the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive

and Kidney Diseases.

People with diabetes may also have a higher risk of heart disease because high blood glucose levels increase the chance of:

- ▶ angina
- ▶ heart attack
- ▶ stroke

CAD

If you have diabetes, managing your glucose can limit your chance of developing heart disease. People with both high blood pressure and diabetes have a higher risk of cardiovascular disease.

Risk factors you can't control

- Other risk factors for heart disease include:
- ▶ family history
 - ▶ ethnicity
 - ▶ sex
 - ▶ age
- Although these risk factors aren't controllable, you may be able to monitor their effects.
- A family history of CAD is especially concerning if it involves:
- ▶ a male relative under 55 years old
 - ▶ a female relative under 65 years old
- Non-Hispanic Black people, non-Hispanic white people, and people of Asian or Pacific Islander heritage have a higher risk than Native Alaskan or Native American people.
- Also, males have a greater risk of heart disease than females. According to the CDC, the prevalence of heart disease is higher in men than in women.



How is heart disease diagnosed?

Your doctor may order several types of tests and evaluations to make a heart disease diagnosis. Some of these tests can be performed before you ever have symptoms of heart disease.

Other tests may be used to look for possible causes of symptoms when they develop.

Physical exams and blood tests

The first thing your doctor will do is perform a physical exam. They will take an account of the symptoms you've been experiencing.

Then they will want to know your family and personal medical history. Genetics can play a role in some heart diseases. If you have a close family member with heart disease, share this information with your doctor. Blood tests are frequently ordered. This is because they can help your doctor see your cholesterol levels and look for signs of inflammation.

Non-invasive tests

A variety of noninvasive tests may be used to diagnose heart disease, such as:

- ▶ electrocardiogram (EKG)
- ▶ echocardiogram
- ▶ stress test
- ▶ carotid ultrasound
- ▶ Holter monitor
- ▶ tilt-table test
- ▶ CT scan
- ▶ heart MRI

Invasive tests

If a physical exam, blood tests, and noninvasive tests aren't conclusive, your doctor may want to look inside your body to determine what's causing your symptoms. Invasive tests may include:

- ▶ cardiac catheterization
- ▶ coronary angiography
- ▶ electrophysiology

What treatments are available for heart disease?

Treatment for heart disease largely depends on the type of heart disease you have as well as how far it has advanced. For example, if you have a heart infection, your doctor is likely to prescribe an antibiotic.

If you have plaque buildup, your doctor may take a two-pronged approach: prescribe a medication that can help lower your risk of additional plaque buildup and look to help you adopt certain lifestyle strategies.

Healthline

... males have a greater risk of heart disease than females. According to the CDC, the prevalence of heart disease is higher in men than in women.

Everything you need to know about the Flu

IN a typical year, flu season occurs from fall to early spring — and with it comes sniffing, sneezing, coughing, fatigue, and all the familiar trappings of the flu.

The severity of the illness varies by person, but the Covid-19 pandemic lends a new urgency to protecting ourselves while both of these viruses surge in the coming months.

Flu shots are always important, but they're even more important this year to protect the population, and especially vulnerable groups, from getting flu while Covid-19 is still a threat.

What's the difference between a cold and the flu?

The common cold and the flu may seem similar at first. They're both respiratory illnesses and can cause similar symptoms. But different viruses cause these two conditions.

Your symptoms can help you tell the difference between them.

Both a cold and the flu share a few common symptoms. People with either illness often experience:

- ▶ runny or stuffy nose
- ▶ sneezing
- ▶ body aches
- ▶ general fatigue

As a rule, flu symptoms are more severe than cold symptoms.

Another distinct difference between the two is how serious they are. Colds rarely cause other health conditions or problems. But the flu can lead to:

- ▶ sinusitis
- ▶ ear infections
- ▶ pneumonia
- ▶ sepsis

If your symptoms are severe, you may want to confirm either a cold or flu diagnosis. Your doctor will run tests that can help determine what's behind your symptoms.

During the Covid-19 epidemic, call ahead for the protocol on visiting a doctor in person or having an online visit.

Cold and flu symptoms should also be treated with care due to their overlap with Covid-19 symptoms. If your doctor diagnoses a cold, you'll only need to treat your symptoms until the virus has run its course. These treatments can include:

- ▶ using over-the-counter (OTC) cold medications
- ▶ staying hydrated
- ▶ getting plenty of rest

For the flu, taking flu medicine early in the virus' cycle may help reduce severity of the illness and shorten the time that you're sick. Rest and hydration are also beneficial for people with the flu.

Much like the common cold, the flu often just needs time to work its way through your body.

What's the difference between the flu and Covid-19?

The symptoms of Covid-19, the flu, and allergies have some overlap, but are often different. The main symptoms of Covid-19 are:

- ▶ tiredness



- ▶ fever
- ▶ cough
- ▶ shortness of breath

Sneezing is not typical

Flu symptoms are similar to Covid-19 including fever and body aches. But you may not find shortness of breath as a symptom with the flu. Allergy symptoms are usually more chronic and include sneezing, coughing, and wheezing.

What are the symptoms of the flu?

Here are some of the common symptoms of the flu:

Fever

The flu almost always causes an increase in your body temperature. This is also known as a fever.

Most flu-related fevers range from a low-grade fever around 100°F (37.8°C) to as high as 104°F (40°C). Although alarming, it's not uncommon for young children to have higher fevers than adults. If you suspect your child has the flu, see their doctor.

You may feel "feverish" when you have an elevated temperature. Signs include chills, sweats, or being cold despite your body's high temperature. Most fevers last for less than 1 week, usually around 3 to 4 days.

Cough

A dry, persistent cough is common with the flu. The cough may worsen, becoming uncomfortable and painful.

You may sometimes experience shortness of breath or chest discomfort during this time. Many flu-related coughs can last for about 2 weeks.

Muscle aches

Flu-related muscle pains are most common

in your neck, back, arms, and legs. They can often be severe, making it difficult to move even when trying to perform basic tasks.

Headache

Your first symptom of the flu may be a severe headache. Sometimes symptoms, including light and sound sensitivity, go along with your headache.

Fatigue

Feeling tired is a not-so-obvious symptom of the flu. Feeling generally unwell can be a sign of many conditions. These feelings of tiredness and fatigue may come on fast and be difficult to overcome.

Flu shot: Know the facts

Influenza is a serious virus that leads to many illnesses each year. You don't have to be young or have a compromised immune system to get gravely ill from the flu. Healthy people can get sick from the flu and spread it to friends and family.

In some cases, the flu can even be deadly. Flu-related deaths are most common in people ages 65 and older, but can be seen in children and young adults.

The best and most efficient way to avoid the flu and prevent spreading it is to get a flu vaccination.

The flu vaccine is available in the following forms:

- ▶ injectable shot
- ▶ high-dose injectable shot (for those over age 65)
- ▶ intradermal shot
- ▶ nasal spray

The more people that get vaccinated against the flu, the less the flu can spread. It also helps with herd immunity, helping to protect those who can't get the vaccine for medical reasons.

Vaccination can also help lessen the severity of the illness if you do end up getting the flu.

Healthline



▲ A woman holds a child as people gather for the funeral of Sadegh Omidzadeh and Mohammad-Amin Samadi, members of Iran’s Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, in Tehran, Iran.

PICTURES OF THE DAY



▲ France’s Arthur Cazaux in action during his fourth round match against Poland’s Hubert Hurkacz



▲ A man dressed as “Pepino”, a carnival character, dances as part of a ceremony marking the beginning of the carnival in Bolivia, in La Paz, Bolivia.



▲ People brave the snow outside as Denmark’s Princess Benedikte arrives for service on the occasion of the change of throne in Denmark, in Aarhus Cathedral.



▲ A Ukrainian serviceman attends mock anti-sabotage drills near the border with Russia, in Sumy region, Ukraine.



▲ A person looks at photos of people who were killed and kidnapped during the October 7 attack by Hamas gunmen from Gaza, at the site of the Nova festival, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, in Reim, southern Israel.



▲ A man passes by a torn hoarding depicting Lord Ram in the old quarters of Delhi, India.



▲ Smoke rises over the Gaza Strip, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, as seen from Israel’s border with Gaza in southern Israel.



▲ Snow covers the roofs of the so-called “Alter Flecken” (old spot), the historic core of Freudenberg with its half-timbered houses from the 17th century in the heart of the federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia near the city of Siegen, Germany

Chelsea have made the most money in player sales for the past 10 years

CHELSEA has received more income in player sales than any other club across the last 10 years. The Blues have hit the headlines over the past 18 months for spending more than £1 billion since a Todd Boehly-led consortium took over the club from Roman Abramovich in May 2022.

They were similarly well-backed in the market by Russian businessmen but were always astute in bringing in income through player sales.

And, according to new data from Transfermarkt, Chelsea have the highest transfer income since 2014-15, with £1.13bn made from shipping out stars.

This covers notable big-money departures such as Eden Hazard's move to Real Madrid in 2019 for a fee rising to £150m, along with the summer exits of Kai Havertz to Arsenal for £65m and Mason Mount's transfer to Man United for £55m.

However, the likes of Marc Guehi, Tammy Abraham and Fikayo Tomori - three academy graduates - have also been sold for large fees that were worth £65m in total.

Benfica were second behind Chelsea, bringing a total transfer income of £1.04bn, with the Portuguese giants known for producing several top-quality players over the years.

This includes the exit of Joao Felix to Atletico Madrid in 2019 at the age of just 19 for £113m, Chelsea's acquisition of Enzo Fernandez last January for a British record £106.8m fee, and Darwin Nunez's £85m move to Liverpool in 2022.

The likes of Rubian Dias, Goncalo Ramos,

Ederson, Raul Jimenez and Nelson Semedo have also departed Benfica for more than £30m over the past 10 years.

Another hotbed for talent, AS Monaco, ranked third, with the Principality side bringing in £1.03bn in transfer income.

This was no doubt helped by Kylian Mbappe's £166m move to PSG in 2017 and Aurelien Tchouameni's £85.3m transfer to Real Madrid.

Juventus (£933m) and Barcelona (£908m) ranked in the fourth and fifth biggest transfer incomes respectively.

Only three other English teams joined Chelsea in the top 20, with Arsenal and Manchester United not even ranking in the top 30 teams with the highest transfer income.

Manchester City were 13th, having sold £678m worth of talent, while Liverpool ranked 15th after bringing in £631m in transfer income.

The shock English club to make the top 20 was Southampton, with the Saints sandwiched between Lille in 18th and PSG in 20th respectively.

While they are now a Championship side after a difficult few years, Southampton have a history of producing - and selling on - highly promising youngsters, with the likes of James Ward-Prowse, Adam Lallana and Luke Shaw all being sold for more than £26m.

Meanwhile, they have also helped to develop players from other clubs before they were subsequently poached, with Virgil van Dijk's £75m transfer to Liverpool still their highest sale, while Sadio Mane also moved to Anfield for £34m.

(Mail sport)



▲ Chelsea has received more income in player sales than any other club across the last 10 years.

Alcaraz races into the Australian Open quarters

CARLOS Alcaraz demolished unseeded Serbian Miomir Kecmanovic to storm into the Australian Open quarterfinals on Monday as Daniil Medvedev stayed on track for a third final in four years.

The Spanish second seed, who will next face sixth seed Alexander Zverev, is locked in a fierce battle with Novak Djokovic for the world No. 1 spot and is also after his Melbourne crown.

The two-time Grand Slam winner produced some scintillating baseline hitting at Rod Laver Arena to sweep Kecmanovic aside 6-4, 6-4, 6-0 in one hour 49 minutes.

The 20-year-old, who missed last year's Australian Open with an injury, has dropped just one set so far in Melbourne, where he had previously never been past the third round.

"I pushed him to the limit in every ball, every point," said Alcaraz. "He has played a lot of tough matches before this one, so probably physically he wasn't 100 per cent."

"I could take my chances in every set and it was a pretty good match for myself."

"I'm feeling better and better every day. Every match I play here at Rod Laver (Arena) I feel more comfortable. A pleasure to play here, amazing court."

Zverev overcame a fierce challenge from British 19th seed Cam-

eron Norrie to pull through 7-5, 3-6, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (10/3) in a punishing match lasting more than four hours.

He racked up 54 winners, including 15 aces, as he chases his first Grand Slam title.

Russian third seed Medvedev was made to work hard by Portugal's Nuno Borges before prevailing 6-3, 7-6 (7/4), 5-7, 6-1 after more than three hours.

The 27-year-old will meet Polish ninth seed Hubert Hurkacz for a place in the last four.

"Before this match, I was feeling 100 per cent," said Medvedev, defeated by Djokovic in the 2021 final and by Rafael Nadal the following year.

"But he made me run in the third set and that's why I missed a little bit too much. I was pretty

dead, to be honest. In the fourth set, I managed to raise my energy levels."

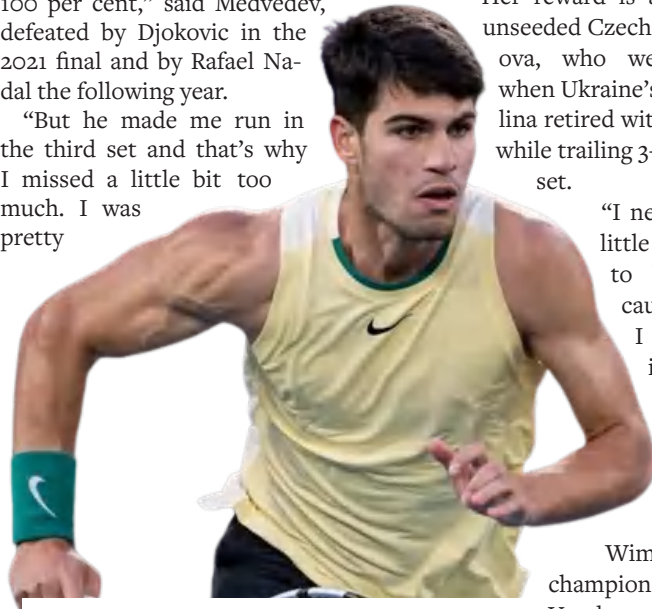
Big-serving Hurkacz ended the dream run of French wildcard Arthur Cazaux 7-6 (8/6), 7-6 (7/3), 6-4 to advance to his first quarterfinal in Melbourne.

Earlier, Ukrainian qualifier Dayana Yastremska fought off two set points in the first set and came from a breakdown in the second against two-time champion Victoria Azarenka to win 7-6 (8/6), 6-4.

Her reward is a clash with unseeded Czech Linda Noskova, who went through when Ukraine's Elina Svitolina retired with a bad back while trailing 3-0 in the first set.

"I need to take a little bit of time to breathe because my heart I feel is going to jump out of my body," said Yastremska, who hammered Wimbledon

champion Marketa Vondrousova in the first round. (AFP)



▲ Carlos Alcaraz demolished unseeded Serbian Miomir Kecmanovic to storm into the Australian Open quarterfinals on Monday.



▲ Bayern Munich are expected to have another go at tempting Newcastle United to sell Kieran Trippier before the week is out.

Bayern expected to make another offer for Trippier

BAYERN Munich are expected to have another go at tempting Newcastle United to sell Kieran Trippier before the week is out.

Newcastle have rejected a loan and a lowball offer from Bayern who are juggling right-back targets with Paris St Germain's Nordi Mukiele.

Mail Sport understands that Trippier is open to linking up again with former Tottenham team-mates Eric Dier and Harry Kane but the price would have to be right.

Sources say Trippier is not trying to 'force' an exit and is very happy playing under Eddie Howe and has loved his time at the club.

However, it was revealed on Saturday, that Trippier returned from a break in New York and hopes to seal his move to Bayern Munich.

The German club are aware that Newcastle are at their financial fair play limit and is seeking to take advantage.

Speaking earlier this month, Tuchel - who wanted to sign Kyle Walker from Man City in the summer - confirmed his side are hoping to strengthen in Trippier's position.

"We are looking for a right-back who is strong in duels," he said. "We'll see if something is possible."

"If there's an opportunity on the market, we'll take it. Otherwise, things will stay this way." (Daily Mail)



Nigeria through to last 16 after 1 – 0 win over Guinea–Bissau

ABIDJAN :Nigeria booked their passage into the last 16 of the Africa Cup of Nations after a first-half own goal from Guinea-Bissau’s Opa Sangante handed them a 1-0 victory on Monday, which was enough to earn them second place in Group A.

Moses Simon sent in a low cross from the left looking for Victor Osimhen but as Sangante attempted to clear ahead of the striker he could only steer the ball into the roof of his own net after 36 minutes.

Nigeria finish on seven points from three games, behind surprise package Equatorial Guinea on goal difference.

Hosts Ivory Coast face an anxious wait to see if they will advance as one of the best third-place finishers with three points and a minus three goal difference.

Nigeria dominated the game but poor finishing meant it was a tense encounter to the end, with Osimhen missing several chances



▲Nigeria players line-up for the national anthem before the start of the match.

to secure the three points earlier in the contest and both teams having late goals correctly ruled out for offside.

Nigeria will be pleased with back-to-back wins after a limp start in their pool opener against Equatorial Guinea but there is still

work for coach Jose Peseiro to do to get them fully firing. On paper they have among the best attacks in the tournament, but three goals

in as many games is a poor return and this clash with Guinea-Bissau illustrated their troubles.

(Cafonline)



▲Dejected Ivory Coast players after the match.

Ivory Coast suffers heaviest home defeat

EQUATORIAL Guinea inflicted Ivory Coast’s heaviest defeat on home soil at the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations on Monday night, thrashing the Elephants 4-0 at the Olympic Stadium of Ebimpe.

The victory saw Nzalang Nacional top Group A, while the Elephants currently sit in third position on the log.

The hosts got the game off to a bright start and held most of the ball during the first 10 minutes.

As the dust settled at the Olympic Stadium of Ebimpe, Ivory Coast began playing more constructively which pushed Equatorial Guinea on the edge of their own box.

Equatorial Guinea attacked in sporadic moments and looked to hit the home team on the break at every chance. Nevertheless, the Ivorian’s energy appeared to have been a problem for their counterparts.

Nicolas Pepe was afforded the chance of the first half in the 29th minute after finding himself one-on-one with Jesus Owono in goal.

In an attempt to round the goalkeeper, Owono did well to read the situation before intercepting the ball. However, it was Equatorial Guinea who broke the deadlock in the 41st minute as Emilio Nsue got his name on the scoresheet.

Carlos Akapo caught the Ivorian defence napping with a darting

run into the area and subsequently picked out Nsue who guided the ball home with a calm finish.

The Elephants thought they had levelled matters moments before halftime after Ibrahim Sangaré found the back of the net.

However, the VAR officials spotted the midfielder in an offside position.

Ivory Coast oversaw a positive start to the second half and created a couple of goalscoring chances in the process.

Owono kept his side in the game with a fine save soon before the hour mark after Christian Kouamé found himself one-on-one with the goalkeeper. (Supersport)

Injured Salah leaving AFCON ‘temporarily’

EGYPT star Mohamed Salah is leaving the Africa Cup of Nations — at least temporarily — and returning to Liverpool for treatment on a muscle injury, the Premier League club announced late Sunday.

The influential forward was forced off during the first half of Egypt’s 2-2 draw with Ghana in Thursday’s Africa Cup group match, causing concern for club and country.

It was later revealed the 31-year-old Salah would miss the Pharaohs’ next two fixtures, if they progressed to the knockout stages of the tournament in the Ivory Coast.

Salah will now attend Egypt’s final Group B game against Cape Verde on Monday, where victory would secure their place in the

last 16, before flying back to Liverpool for rehabilitation.

Liverpool posted an Egyptian FA statement on the club’s official website on Sunday evening. The statement read: “After additional examinations were conducted on Mohamed Salah during the last hours, and after communication between the national team’s medical staff and his counterpart at Liverpool FC, it was decided that the player will return to England after the Cape Verde match tomorrow to complete his treatment, with the hope that he will join the national team in the semi-final of the AFCON if we qualify.”

Earlier Sunday, Salah said he is still convinced he will finally win the Africa Cup “sooner or later.”

Egypt has yet to win a game at the Africa Cup with two draws.

(Africanews)



▲The Egypt national squad medical team tending to Mohamed Salah after sustaining the injury.

INGWENYAMA CUP LAST 16 MATCHES AT MAVUSO IN PICTURES



▲ Mbabane Highlanders players celebrates after the victory in penalties.



▲ Mbabane Highlanders and Louis XIV fight for the ball during the game that ended with a 1-all draw. Highlanders won after penalties.



▲ Manzini Wanderers Sihle Mkhonta challenges Madlenya player Mfundo Gamedze.



▲ Madlenya players in jubilation afters scoring the seventh penaltv that handed them the win over Manzini Wanderers.



▲ Madlenya players and officials celebrate after the victory.



▲ Madlenya goalkeeper Dumsani Dlamini celebrates their 7-6 victory over Manzini Wanderers after penalties with some supporters.



▲ Officials from both Manzini Wanderers and Madlenya engaged in a fight during the penalty shoot out.



▲ Culture was part of entertainment during the Ingwenyama Cup last 16 matches on Sunday at Mavuso Sports Centre.



▲ Mbabane Highlanders supporters during their win over Louis XIV on Sunday during the Ingwenyama Cup last 16.



▲ Football supporters came dressed in different attires for the Ingwenyama Cup last 16 matches at Mavuso Sports Centre on Sunday.



▲Manzini Wanderers players after their knockout match this past weekend.

MTN League returns with mouth-watering clashes

By Ntokozo Magongo
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The MTN Premier League will bounce back with some mouth-watering clashes this weekend with defending champions, Green Mamba crossing swords with Mbabane Swallows.

The week 15 will also see the Manzini derby between Moneni Pirates and Manzini Wanderers.

The MTN Premier League took a

break I the past weekend to give way to the Ingwenyama Cup last 16 matches.

The Premier League of Eswatini (PLE) is yet to release the venues and times of the matches.

Green Mamba is on top of the table with 27 points while Mbabane Swallows are third two points behind. Second placed Royal Leopard will play Madlenya while Young Buffaloes will play Illovo who they beat 7-1 on Saturday in the Ingwenyama Cup last 16 at KaLanga Technical

THE WEEK 15 FIXTURES:	
G. Mamba	vs M. Swallows
Y. Buffaloes	vs Illovo
M. Highlanders	vs Rangers
R. Leopard	vs Madlenya
N. Hotspurs	vs Tambuti
M. Pirates	vs M. Wanderers
M. Sea Birds	vs D. Sundowns

Centre.

Green Mamba were beaten 0-1 by Manzini Wanderers in their last match in the MTN Premier League.

Nduku in Beach volleyball national team

Stories By Sibusiso Masilela
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CORRECTIONAL Sunrise star Nduku Masangane has been included in the four-member beach volleyball national team. Masangane recently won the best attacker award during the 2023 Zone VI club championships with his club (Correctional) in Lesotho.

Other members of the squad include Mlamuli Simelane (Royal Eswatini Pool Club) and the Correctional female pair of Nokulunga Kunene and Nonhlanhla Khoza.

The team will be led by Royal Eswatini Sugar coach Vusi Dlamini who is the leader of delegation for the assignment that will be staged between Thursday and Sunday in Botswana.

The local team is expected to leave the country on Wednesday for the qualifiers where eventual winners will book a place in the upcoming continental games slated for March in Ghana.

Volleyball is among the list of sporting codes for team Eswatini during the African Games including Boxing, Volleyball, Athletics, Taekwondo, Swimming, Karate and Chess that were recently announced by the Eswatini Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association (EOCGA). Eswatini National Volleyball Association (ENVA) Secretary Non-



▲Correctional Sunrise star Nduku Masangane.

ophile ‘Afi’ Dlamini confirmed the developments.

“We will be taking part in the beach volleyball African games qualifiers, and we are confident that the team will make us proud during the continental assignment,” she said. The volleyball mother body also held an extra ordinary meeting on Sunday where they deliberated on several is-

THE FULL BEACH VOLLEYBALL NATIONAL TEAM	
Males	
Nduku Masangane Correctional	
Mlamuli Simelane REPS	
Females	
Nokulunga Kunene Correctional	
Nonhlanhla Khoza Correctional	
Leader of delegation: Mlamuli Sideline	

sues such as the kickoff of the 2024 MulaSport series league possibly on Saturday.

Nsingizini Hotspurs setting the trend

NSINGIZINI Hotspurs are proving their worth as they are leading in terms of professionalism. The Shiselweni-based outfit incentivised their supporters by giving them free transport to the Ingwenyama Cup Last 16 clash against Denver Sundowns played at King Sobhuza II Memorial Stadium on Sunday.

The transport was picking the fans in Lavumisa, Nkwene and Nsingizini. They went on to win the game 2-0 to reach the

quarterfinals of the tournament. The game was watched by close to 1 000 fans. Green Mamba beat Manzini Sea Birds 5-4 after penalties at the same venue in the first match of the double header.

Meanwhile, the team also released their traditional lihiya that is already available in the market. Each lihiya costs E250.

For those who are interested in purchasing the merchandise can call (268) 7697 1380 or 7964 3963.



▲The Nsingizini Hotspurs traditional lihiya.

Madlenya captain joins Buffaloes

MADLENYA FC captain Lucky Gamedze is set to join Young Buffaloes in the current transfer window. Gamedze has been one of the seasoned performers for the Siphofaneni based side since he rejoined the team from Nsingizini Hotspurs.

Madlenya Marketing and Communications Officer Comfort Jele only confirmed talks between them and the army side.

“We are currently in talks with Buffaloes over the player and the deal has not been finalised,” he said.

Buffaloes Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sandile Gwebu said the player was part of their team.

“We have concluded the

signing of Madlenya FC captain (Lucky Gamedze) and we are happy to have a player of his calibre. We would like to thank the Madlenya Directors for their professionalism during negotiations,” he said.

The Siphofaneni based side recently announced five new signings including Nsingizini Hotspurs striker Melusi ‘Vardy’ Tfwala.

Thwala played his first match for the William Gamedze led side during their 7-6 win over Manzini Wanderers in the penalty shootouts on Sunday at Mavuso Sports Centre.

Other new signings for Madlenya include Melusi Gulwako Msimisi Motsa (both from Illovo), Thobelani Gamedze and Sanele Dlamini.

I'm ready to serve Sihlangu – Ernest

Stories By Sibusiso Masilela
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GREEN Mamba head coach Ernest Mavuso says he has been humbled by his appointment as Sihlangu assistant coach.

As exclusively revealed by our sister publication, Eswatini Sunday, Mavuso was announced as a new co-assistant coach for the Dominic Kunene led Sihlangu together with national under 23 mentor, Sifiso 'Nuro' Ntibane by the Eswatini Football Association (EFA) President Peter 'Samora' Someone on Monday at Sigwaca House..

Task

"I am honoured to be given such a huge task and I will work with the entire technical bench in grinding results for the national team," he said.

Meanwhile, Ntibane politely declined to comment until he gets a formal update from the football mother body.

Simelane explained that the two have been engaged on a part-time basis following the organisation retreat recently held at Hilton Hotel.

"We have decided to beef up the current Sihlangu technical bench with the two coaches following suggestions and concerns from the nation and other stakeholders. We are confident

that the two will contribute towards reviving the national team. They will not leave their current club jobs," he said.

The changes further saw the redeployment of assistant coach Anthony Mdluli to the goalkeeper coach position replacing the legendary Sipho 'Shilton' Dube who has been relieved from his duties.

Another change saw the roping in of Royal Leopard and Ladies National under-17 trainer Dennis



▲ Green Mamba Coach Ernest Mavuso.



▲ Eswatini Football Association CEO Frederick Mngometulu and President Peter Simelane announcing the Sihlangu technical changes at Sigwaca on Monday.

THE NEW LOOK SIHLANGU TECHNICAL BENCH

Head coach: Dominic Kunene

Assistant coaches: Ernest Mavuso, Sifiso 'Nuro' Ntibane

Goalkeeper coach: Anthony Mdluli

Physical trainer: Dennis Fakudze

Fakudze in the position of Mbuso Gina.

Simelane further stated that they were going to review the performance of Kunene at the end of his one-year contract on March 31, 2024.

The senior national team is expected to take part in the 2025 AFCON qualifiers in March and further continue with the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers in June.

Mavuso once worked as national under 20 head coach while Ntibane is currently in charge of the under 23s.

Mavuso recently won the 2022/23 MTN Premier League title and the 2023 Trade Fair Cup meanwhile Ntibane won the 2014/15 MTN Premier League title with the police side.



▲ Police try to break up a fight between Manzini Wanderers and Madlenya FC fans.

Wanderers, Madlenya face E100 000 fine

By Ntokoza Magongo
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IT never rains but pours for Manzini Wanderers who are facing a maximum E100 000 fines alongside Madlenya FC.

This comes after the violence scenes that were witnessed between the two sides during the Ingwenyama Cup last 16 match at Mavuso Sports Centre on Sunday. Wanderers were booted out of the tournament 7-6 after penalties. Wanderers' marshals and officials attacked their opponent's official during the penalty shoot-out and the violence scenes attracted supporters from both sides and they clashed until police officers were able to calm the situation. The penalty shootout continued without disturbance as the violence scenes were out of the field and along the synthetic track at the Mavuso Sports Centre.

According to the Ingwenyama Cup rules

and regulations, any team that assists referees, match officials, club officials, supporters or spectators faces a minimum E10 000 or E100 000 fine.

Article 10.3.4 Assaulting a referee (s) or match official (s) or club official (s) or player (s) or

Fan (s) or supporter (s) or spectator (s) – a minimum fine of E10, 000-00 and a maximum fine of E100, 000.00. In addition, the offending club shall be ordered to compensate the victim for any financial loss incurred due to the assault.

There was also drama between Mbabane Highlanders and Louis XIV match as players were stopped right on their tracks t the dressing during half time of the match. Both teams were alleging that foreign substances were sprinkled in the tunnels.

The match officials were yet to submit their match reports to the Premier League of Eswatini (PLE).

Ezulwini Utd's 'Smoothies' extends Ingwenyama Cup goal tally to five

EZULWINI United captain Mphucuko 'Smoothies' Dlamini has extended his Ingwenyama Cup goal tally to five.

The Former Mbabane Highlanders player netted one goal during their 2-all draw against Seven Dreams where they eventually secured a 5-3 win on penalties over the National First Division side on Saturday at Prince of Wales Ground.

Dlamini is a strong contender for the E10 000 goal scorer award.

He is facing stiff competition from Young Buffaloes talisman Sandile 'Saviola' Gamedze and Madlenya FC striker Lethokuhle Gamedze who are both sitting at three goals.

Manzini Wanderers striker Banele 'Banny' Mdluli is out of the race following his team exit in the tournament at the hands of Madlenya on Sunday at Mavuso Sports Centre.

The speedy striker was sitting at three goals before the hub giants exit in the prestigious knockout tournament.

Dlamini said his main target was to help the team perform well in the tournament.

"My focus is not on winning the Ingwenyama Cup top goal scorer award but to help my team reach greater things in the tournament. Winning the bonus can come as a bonus since my goal is to see my team doing well in the tournament," he said.

Eights teams are still in the hunt for

the E1.4 million first prize money and these are Green Mamba, Young Buffaloes, Mbabane Swallows, Mbabane Highlanders, Madlenya, Pigg's Peak Rangers, Nsingizini Hotspurs and Ezulwini United.



▲ Ezulwini United player Mphucuko 'Smoothies' Dlamini.



**Alcaraz
in Australian
Open quarter
finals**

Page 19



**Wenderers,
Madlenya
face E100 000
fine**

Page 23



Eswatini Tuesday 23
January, 2024
Daily News
Sport

**‘I’m ready
to serve
Sihlangu’ –
Ernest**

... Green Mamba head coach, Ernest Mavuso says he is humbled by the appointment as assistant coach at the national team, Sihlangu and will be giving his best to help turn the squad’s fortunes around. **Page 23**